

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

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Friday, September 11, 2009



**Price of a barrel
of petroleum**
US\$ 71.94
+0.63

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

HEALTHCARE
HECKLER



Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C. is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009, as President Barack Obama delivered a speech on healthcare to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington.

*See International News on
Page B2*

SPORTS NEWS

GEHRIG JETER



New York Yankees' Derek Jeter tips his cap after hitting a single during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009, at Yankee Stadium in New York. The hit tied Jeter with Lou Gehrig for most hits by a Yankee.

See Sports Today on Page B11

Join Salamander Holdings for the 8th annual Fund Raising Drive Sunday



NOORD – Visit Imeldahof this Sunday Sept 13th, for a Bake Sale & White Elephant sale organized by the community-conscious staff of Salamander Holdings. The annual fundraising drive benefits the Children's Home, which is always in need of additional funds for special projects and

activities. The fundraiser will be held from 8am until 1pm. There will be an extensive selection of cakes, cookies

At Café Rembrandts with Dewars White Label

Aruba's 1st Kilt Party will be held tonight



PALM BEACH – Possibly the first ever on Aruba KILT PARTY will be held tonight, Friday Sept. 11, 2009 at Cafe Rembrandt. The event will be hosted by Dewars White Label by Licores Aruba N.V. This is part of the Aruba Kilt Tour that Stephen Marshall, brand Global Brand Ambassador of Dewar's Whiskey is conducting, by holding several seminars and events at resorts and other establishments. There will be live music by Acoustic Soul with singer Jairo Boekhoudt.

Continued on Next Page



CHOCOLATE, CARAMEL AND COOKIE
THE TWIX MIX
IN THE NEW McFLURRY®



Free Dewar's Drinks for all those wearing Kilts



Continued from Front Page

Tonight there will be free Dewar's Drinks for all those wearing Kilts!

Also it's going to be the final performance of Acoustic Soul for the Season as they will be going into the studios to produce their new original tracks for their fans.

Visiting Aruba and attending the party: Mr. Stephen Marshall, brand Global Brand Ambassador of Dewar's Whiskey (John Dewar and sons). Stephen has worked in the drinks industry for ten years, for the most part in Scotch Whisky.

A history graduate of the University of Aberdeen, his first job was with Oddbins managing specialist whisky retail outlets in Glasgow, Stirling and Perth. During this time he helped the brand grow to its present position as the top malt whisky retailer in the UK. In 2003 he joined the internationally esteemed Scotch Malt Whisky Society based in Leith, Edinburgh. There he chaired a select panel of experts charged with choosing which whiskies should be bottled by the Society for its private members.

Stephen stamped his individual mark on the Society's tasting notes, which were regarded as authoritative, if sometimes a little irreverent, and which were widely read in the whisky world.

During this time Stephen

traveled to every corner of the United Kingdom hosting tasting evenings for the Society's 18,000 members. He both bolstered his knowledge of whisky and refined his nose by working for a spell in Ardbeg distillery on the isle of Islay off the west coast of Scotland, where he learned the art of distillation.

Last year Stephen was appointed as John Dewar & Sons second Global Brand Ambassador, working with Malcolm Murray.

Alongside Malcolm, he ensures all global markets which sell the Dewar's portfolio have the necessary support in relation to promotion and education about Scotch Whisky and, of course, the premium brands from the House of Dewar's; Dewar's 12, Dewar's 15, Dewar's 18, Dewar's Signature, Aberfeldy 12 and Aberfeldy 21.

Stephen is passionate about good whisky, and believes that the compelling and story of Scotch, the story of how history, tradition, landscape and science all combined to produce a truly unique drink, enhances the enjoyment of Scotland's finest export.

When in Scotland Stephen is based at Dewar's World of Whisky at the Aberfeldy Distillery in Perthshire, the global brand centre of Dewar's Scotch Whisky.

Here visitors get to see first-hand the art of blending Scotch Whisky and tour



the Aberfeldy Malt Whisky Distillery which produces the malt that lies at the heart of the

Dewar's blends. Stephen is married, lives in the Kingdom of Fife and in his

spare time collects dusty old records, dusty old books and visits dusty old museums. □

While the dining room is under renovation

Fishes & More takes fish to the grill



PALM BEACH - Fishes & More is currently taking seafood dining up to a higher level by renovating their kitchen, bar and indoor dining room. In the same time, the owners don't want to deprive patrons of their fantastic dishes, so they've created a special Grill -Style ambiance and new menu for everyone to enjoy.

Fishes & More specializes in fresh fish and seafood,

and at the same time please the non-fish lovers as well. The "Grill" menu includes Salads, Soups, Catch of the Day, Filet Mignon, Grilled Shrimp, Rib Eye, and Surf & Turf.

All the dishes are prepared a la minute by an internationally experienced kitchen team, which gives the twist to their famous dishes. Influences from all over the world are found back on the menu and

they are already well known for the daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work only with fresh and honest products!

Ideally located in front of the Occidental Resort (Former Allegro), they are visited both by individuals and families alike.

There is live entertainment every night at 8PM, and even after dinner the perfect night out continues, as you can shop till you drop since the shops on the friendly square are open until eleven.

See what it's like to experience real fresh dining joy with a twist! Open from 6 pm until 10 pm. □



World Routes 2009 – Airport Marketing Awards

AAA N.V. received 3rd nomination for coveted industry marketing award



ORANJESTAD - Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) has once again received notification of being short listed for the World Routes 2009 Airport Marketing Awards to be presented during the 15th World Route Development Forum in Beijing, China held September 13 – 15, 2009.

World Routes is the largest

annual airline industry gathering during where airline planning and network executives meet during short one-on-one pre-scheduled meetings with airport network and marketing executives. AAA N.V. has been nominated previously for this award in 2006 and 2007. In 2007, AAA N.V. was highly commended and ended in second place in

the category of 1 to 5 million passenger movements per year.

This year the categories have been reclassified and AAA N.V. has been nominated within the Americas sharing the honors in this category competing for the award with Akron-Canton Airport in Ohio, Dallas-Forth Worth International Airport in Texas

and Halifax International Airport in Canada.

The airport marketing awards are sponsored by OAG, Official Airline Guide, and airlines are asked to vote for those airports they believe most creatively make the most of the resources it has available.

The awards are not based on size of an airport's budget but are based on airports that showed best tried to develop and maintain airline relationships, keep existing routes and secure new ones.

"Third times the charm" said

Peter Steinmetz, Managing Director AAA N.V. "it is simply fantastic to be recognized within the industry for our marketing efforts. Key to our success is the relationships we build and maintain with our existing and future airline partners whom are of vital importance in our current and continued air service network. Our marketing team is as we speak en-route to China and has 16 airline meetings confirmed. We look forward to welcoming them back next week, possibly with the award in hand" □

ALOHA BRIDGE CLUB ARUBA (ABC)

RESULTS THURSDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2009

A total of 7 pairs joined the Thursday morning bridge session at the Members Lounge of the Aruba Beach Club Resort. The results 50% and higher are as follows:

1 Edith Henriquez / Sheila Lampe 64.58 %
2 Els lacle / Cornelia Sloterdijk 60.00 %
3 Gerry Meenhorst / Addy Eilers 53.75 %
4 Willy Flanegin / Maritza van Romondt 52.50 %.

RESULTS FRIDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2009

This evening a total of 7 pairs joined the bridge session at the Frank Conway Room of Casa del Mar.

The results 50% and higher are as follows:

1 Joke Henriquez / Willy Flanegin 61.25 %
2 Cornelia and Ben Sloterdijk 52.50 %
3 Kathy Yarzagay / Iola Tjin-Tham-Sjin 51.25 %
3 Addy Eilers / Willem Jacobusse 51.25 %.

Aloha Bridge Club Aruba meets twice a week: on Thursday mornings at the Members Lounge of the Aruba Beach Club, starting at 9.00 am and on Friday evenings at the Frank Conway Room of Casa del Mar starting at 7.30 pm. Signing up closes ten minutes before starting time. Fee for guest players: \$ 6.00 or Afl. 10.00 per person.

The club can also be of assistance in finding single players a bridge partner. Please call Addy Eilers : tel. 582-4953

Special Month of September!

Appetizer

- Fish Soup
- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

Entrée

- Fresh Catch of the Day prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.
- Jumbo Shrimp from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.
- Filet Mignon 8 oz. US Tenderloin
- Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast

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- Chocolate or Banana Cake
- Ice Cream
- Coffee / Tea

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Alhambra Casino elects the Stars of the 1st and 2nd Quarter of 2009



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Tuesday \$10 Buy-in \$1,500 Guaranteed
Wednesday \$10 Buy-in \$1,500 Guaranteed
Thursday \$10 Buy-in \$1,500 Guaranteed
Friday \$10 Buy-in \$1,500 Guaranteed
Saturday \$25 Buy-in

Sunday \$10 buy-in \$1,500 Guaranteed

(Tournaments are subject to change as per Management criteria)

BLACKJACK

Only Casino in Aruba
Where dealer stands on
Soft 17

CRAPS

3 - 4- 5 Times Odds

PUNTABRABO - Alhambra, the friendly casino, continues recognizing employees praising the Star of the first and second Quarter of the year 2009. For the first quarter Mr. Rony Poterson was elected. Rony is employed as Players Club Host. Rony is a nice person, he communicates well with guests and colleagues, has a perfect attendance record and never missed a day at work, which is a good accomplishment.

For the second quarter Mr. Maurys Odor from Slot Department became the winner. Maurys is hard worker and communicates very well with guests. Other nominees were Lourdes de Cuba and Olga Narain from Food & Beverage, Henry Cardoze, Antonia Figaroa and Andres Dorothal from Housekeeping, Olinda Arends, Lubeychca Trott and Reagan Werleman

from Live Games, Samantha Palm and Roberto Wever from Slot Department and Haydee Godoy from Credit Department and Jamie Pascall from Marketing. Both Rony and Maurys received several prizes from the Director of Operations Mr. Jerry Amato, which includes an envelope with cash money, a polo shirt with the name and Star of the Quarter embroidered, dinner for

two, a plaque and one day off with pay.

Congratulations from staff and personnel of Alhambra Casino.

The other nominees were praised and asked to keep up the good work

On the photo from left to right: Winner of the Second Quarter, Director of Operations, Mr. Jerry Amato and Slot Manager Mr. Ricky Schlachter. □



Summer's Over: IFA Happy Hour at Turtle Cove

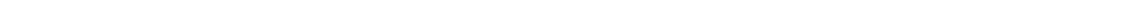


ORANJESTAD — The International Friends of Aruba reconvened for their first happy hour at the end of a much-enjoyed summer vacation at Turtle's Cove. They moved up to the casual, open-air experience of the perched-above-the boulevard bar & restaurant, as their premier choice for a social gathering and an informal catch-up session.

The group enjoyed this smart new place, defining itself with a whimsical Caribbean décor and upbeat music. Manager Jose Lacle personally oversaw

each and every detail, including a scrumptious selection of complimentary hors d'oeuvres and special priced drinks.

The smiling servers and pleasant breezy atmosphere were a hit among party-goers. A peak at the menu reveals that beside Fish & Seafood the menu also features many light appetizers such as escargots and ceviche, and delivers a sinful Fried Cheese Cake, served with a cool scoop of vanilla ice cream, which should be outlawed by the diet police, if they knew about it. The large round bar shows



sports on TV most hours of the day paired with an ongoing reasonably priced beer happy-hour.

The café enjoys ample parking, right below, in the lot adjacent to the central bus station. □



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Friday International Seafood Festival

Saturday Simply Perfect - Prime Rib

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Radisson
ARUBA
RESORT, CASINO & SPA

Quality Tourism = Quality of Life (Part II)

By Michelle Winklaar

ORANJESTAD - In Part I of "Quality Tourism = Quality of Life" I cover the necessity in safeguarding the income generated by the Tourism Industry by focusing our effort on attracting tourists that are willing and able to spend more on the island. In the most recent World Tourism Organization's "Tourism and Economic Stimulus Assessment", it urges governments to put Tourism at the core of their economic recovery and stimulus plans because "jobs and trade flows from a strong tourism sector, as well as business and consumer confidence in

travel, can play a big part in (economic) recovery." In AVP's plan Aruba Ariba, tourism is at the centre of jump starting the economy. Some of the steps from the plan is as follows:

1. We need to first solve the current issues we face such as empty, rundown buildings, a struggling downtown area, immediately shutdown Hotel Central, tackle increasing crime, clean up the island and improve our roads, sidewalks and landscaping. In other words, improve "product Aruba".
2. Renew and improve our relationships with our existing tourism partners such as KLM, AMERICAN

AIRLINES, CARNIVAL CRUISES and existing HOTELS.

3. Increase our marketing spend in the US and other emerging markets to specifically target the visitor from Household income of \$100,000 and up.
4. Recognize our best employees in the Tourism industry (now being done very well by AHATA in their yearly SHOCO awards) and invest in training for Hotel and Tourism staff to ensure tourists receive the best vacation experience.
Some of these objectives can be achieved quite quickly, while others will take longer, but never the



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Ahoy Matey bring this ad in for a free glass of house wine

less MUST be worked towards, e.g. investments in the infrastructure to improve the "product" Aruba.

The fact is that we cannot only use marketing to attract a tourist from a household yearly income of \$100,000 and up. The real effort will be in rejuvenating our island to become the most demanded vacation destination in the Caribbean amongst those that are willing to spend a

little more to stay here, and spend during their vacation. This begins with all of the steps mentioned above. Our Quality of Life depends on how we handle this economic crisis and how effectively we can do this. AVP has a great plan and a great team that is ready to work towards improving our tourism industry and ultimately improving our quality of life. □

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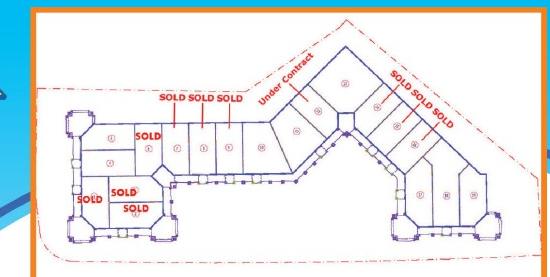
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Daily 9 am - 12 am

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THE COOLEST PLACE TO BE IS BUGALOE! Fun and happiness at popular beach bar

PALM BEACH - There is only one Bugaloe on Aruba: it is the hottest place to be cool and the coolest place to be hot.

Friends and fun are the main ingredients at the beach bar, but great food, drinks and music get a good second place. The sunsets, the breeze and the turquoise ocean are right at the top as well, of course.



People from all over the world get together at Bugaloe: they have a few drinks, a bite to eat, they dance and sway and make new friends. If you have gotten curious here and now, check out the website www.bugaloe.com and you will see at one glance what we are talking about. No words will be needed anymore. Surf to the website for the Bugaloe Event Calendar or leave a note in the Guestbook.

**Bugaloe is located at
De Palm Pier in
Palm Beach between
RIU Palace and
Radisson Resort.**

Bugaloe's daily Happy Hours are considered the starting signal for an evening of partying on the island. Locals mingle with visitors and raise their glasses. When you get hungry, order a scrumptious burger, a gourmet pizza, tasty wings or a salad and party on.



The night is young, the world is going crazy and you are right in the middle of a super happening. What's not to like?

Bugaloe Beach Bar puts on live bands on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

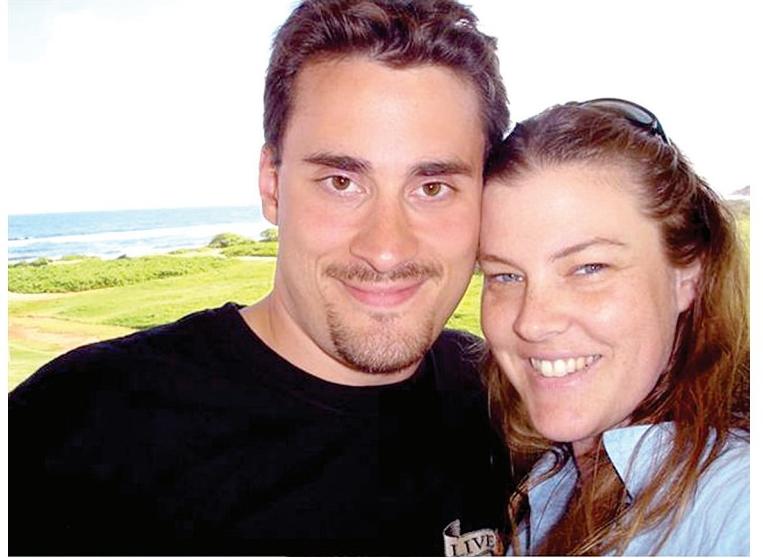
Joyride, PM Band, DJ Jeroen and Marisela & Aquarius are playing the stars from the sky. These musical talents draw the crowds, so be there or be square!

For more information go to www.bugaloe.com.

LIVE MUSIC @ BUGALOE

Tuesday 6-9pm: JOYRIDE
Wednesday 6-10pm: PM Band
Friday 6-10pm: PM Band
Friday 10pm - 12am - DJ Jeroen
Sunday 6-9pm: MARISELA & Aquarius

Deborah & Donald enjoy a rehearsal dinner at Papiamento Restaurant



PALM BEACH -- Miss Deborah Ellen Jutz and Mr. Donald Jason Marcil were married here in Aruba on a memorable day 09/09/2009. The night before the private ceremony at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino &



Spa, the lovebirds enjoyed a tropical dinner poolside at the Papiamento restaurant in the company of their parents, siblings, and the wedding's special guests.

The bride's parents Mr. & Mrs. Gary Wayne Jutz of Palm Beach Aruba, the groom's parents Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Ronald Marcil of Oakville, Connecticut, the groom's brother Dan, his wife Lisa & youngest brother Ken, joined the bride's brother Jason, his companion

Anim, and Joan Kovacs, from Detroit, a family friend for over three decades and Jason's godmother, in wishing Deborah, a professional photographer and Donald, a graphics specialist, a life filled

with love and happiness. Gary Jutz is the General Manager of the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino and Spa. He is pictured here with his wife Patricia and the groom's parents Gerard "Jerry" and his wife Julia. □

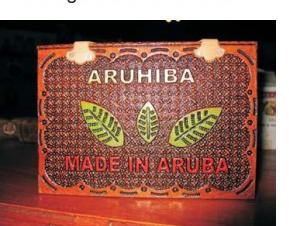
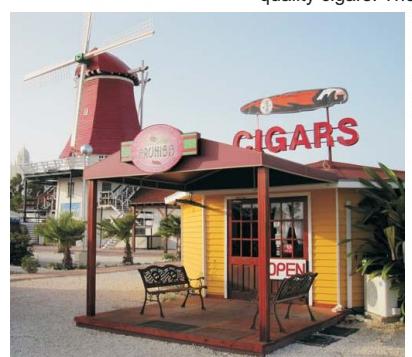


ARUHIBA THE 1 AND ONLY HOMEMADE ARUBAN CIGAR

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.

Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarijn Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



BUY & RECEIVE ONE ARUBAN CIGAR FREE WITH THIS FLYER

Radisson Resort rewards for excellence



PALM BEACH – The associates this week at Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa recognized a number of exceptional members of the executive

committee a special luncheon party hosted in their honor by Rachel Noordermeer & Bob Curtis.

Rainer Wever received



praise for his competence and willingness as he took responsibility for the good, the bad and the ugly in the accounting department, in May.

Jhowne Maduro was lauded for his “yes, I can” attitude as demonstrated in the Laundry department, in June.

Both winners were represented with handsome certificates and special gifts, as they joined the other finalists Nuria Cafarzuza, Kitchen, Mathilde Clements, Plaza Club, Roque Martinez and George Lopez, both from Engineering, nominated



for the month of May and Juan Vasques, Sunset Grille and Santiago Acosta, Pool & Beach for the month of June.

As Manager of the Second Quarter, Vicky Perez, of the Sales Department, was acknowledged for her exceptional ability to secure additional business for the resort. Nominated by Executive Chef Hector Espinoza for her tremendous leadership skills, and her virtual “magic wand,” which brings people into the resort, Vicky remarked that her team was the key to her success, and that working for the Grande Dame, made it easy, since the resort easily sold itself. Pictured here moments of celebration. □



From South Weymouth, Massachusetts

Kristen & Christopher vow their love



PALM BEACH- On September 4, 2009, Kristen Sugrue & Christopher McArdle vowed their love in matrimony at Radisson Aruba Resort. The lovebirds met at a Christmas party which was setup by Kristens' twin sister and her fiancé at that time Anthony. They knew that these two would make a great couple. As soon as their eyes met the rest was history.

After five years of dating Christopher knew the moment had come to ask Kristen

to be his bride; he surprised her at their favorite Bed & Breakfast on the beach at Cape Cod before a romantic dinner on the water.

The planning began and they choose Aruba because Kristen's dream was to be married on the beach. Kristen & Christopher

knew that a destination wedding with close family and friends would be great and an awesome vacation. The wedding day was perfect as Kristen walked down the aisle; Christopher was enchanted by her beauty and knew that the moment was finally here. The ceremony was delivered by Reverend Ruben Trapenburg and witnessed by 43 guests. Kristen & Christopher vowed their love, exchanged rings and said "I Do" as the sunset behind the horizon.

Bella Aruba Photography captured the wedding as everything unfolded. Following the ceremony the guests enjoyed a hors d'oeuvre and cocktails on the pristine sand of Radisson Aruba Resort.

The bridal party and newlyweds were



announced, which followed to the nuptials first dance, cutting of cake, speeches and dinner.

The guests rocked the night away with D.J. Tino's great hits which everyone enjoyed under the stars beside the pool.

That's not all though... After dinner the groomsmen thought it would be superb to throw Christopher in the pool but instead all the groomsmen ended up getting wet and into the pool for a quick dip and back to enjoying a spectacular wedding. Christopher was smart though, he knew his friends and what they were bound to do so he bought the exact suit and came back to the party all dressed in proper attire and swept his bride in his arms and enjoyed the rest of their special day.

"Our wedding exceed our expectations, all of our guests had the time of their lives." We also want to thank Lissy Lampe of Ceremonies and Celebrations in Aruba



for coordinating our wedding and anticipating all our needs. Also another word of thanks to Lisa Dammerman, coordinator of Radisson Resort for doing an outstanding job at taking the reception over and making sure our guests were 100% satisfied. No words can do these ladies justice; replied Christopher who also added a Grande Mashi Danki (Thank You) to the Radisson staff for everything in making their week an unforgettable one for all their guests in making our vacation perfect in every way. □

Photos by Angela Munzenhofer



Caribbean Festivals feature music, pirates, culture, and cuisine

In many tropical locations, the Fall months are the perfect time to take advantage of uncrowded beaches, as well as a special festivals, featuring music, pirates, culture and cuisine – Caribbean style! If you are planning a visit to one of the Caribbean islands listed below, you may want to time your visit to attend one of the following festivals, to be held in October or November. Click on the live links to go to websites that include all the details.

[Anguilla Tranquility Jazz Festival 2009, November 12-15, 2009](#)

[Aruba Music Festival, October 9 and 10, where this year's headliners include Earth, Wind & Fire and Mexican pop star Paulina Rubio.](#)

[Bermuda Music Festival, October 29-31, with Quincy Jones and friends.](#)

[Cayman Islands Pirates Week 2009, November 12-22. Music, street dances, costumes, games, food and drink, "pirate invasion", Kids Day, glittering parade, sports events, Heritage Days, fireworks! It's 11](#)

fun-filled, festive days in the sun with something for everyone, and a lot of it FREE!

[Curacao Culture, Cuisine & Heritage Fest 2009 - through November 15 at island-wide venues. Walking tours, musical performances, restaurant and art-gallery discounts, and a "living history" show that brings 18th-century Curacao to life.](#)

[Dominica World Creole Music Festival, October 30 to November 1. Since the festival is held around the time of Dominicas Independence celebrations, patrons and visitors to the island are afforded numerous opportunities to sample the local cuisine and get an appreciation of the rich cultural attributes of The Nature Island.](#)

[Dominican Republic Jazz Festival, Nov. 6 - 8: The annual festival is held in Cabarete near Puerto Plata.](#)

[Nevis Pirate Festival, October 24-31 and November 21-28: This first annual event includes a treasure hunt, contests, and many special events](#)

involving the rich pirate history on Nevis. (Jim Johnson is pictured above in pirate attire. Photo used with permission.)

[St Lucia Celebrates International Creole Day, October 25, with events surrounding Creole food, music and folklore. St Lucia's rural Feast of La Marguerite on October 17 every year honours the humble daisy. La Marguerite flower society members dressed as kings, queens, nurses and other distinct characters, dance in the streets to folk music and drumming.□](#)



Jim Johnson is pictured in pirate attire.

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Sons of former Minister arrested in investigation

~ El Hage says it's about Blue Lagoon ~

WILLEMSTAD--The sons of former UPB Minister Carlos Mercera were arrested on Tuesday on Aruba and on Bonaire in connection with the major investigation into the laundering of drug money and gold smuggling in the ABC islands and in some European countries.

Four premises were searched on Aruba including the home of the former Minister in Seroe Pela. Documents, vehicles and gold were seized in the searches. No indication was given as to which part of the investigation the Mercera brothers are suspected to be involved in.

In the meantime, UPB member on Bonaire Burney El Hage said he cooperated fully with the detectives when they

searched his home on Tuesday. According to El Hage, detectives were particularly interested in information they suspect was in his possession concerning the Blue Lagoon project that never got off the ground in Bonaire.

The developer of Blue Lagoon Albert de Groot and two other persons are key suspects in the real estate fraud section of the ongoing investigation.

El Hage said he and UPB leader Ramancito Booij, whose home was also searched on Tuesday, had stopped the US \$1.5 billion project after information indicated that De Groot was not being open and honest about the project and there was no realistic way the project could have been realised.

El Hage told the Amigoe newspaper he thought it was unfortunate that he and Booij were being targeted after they were instrumental in stopping the project in the first place. No official report from the prosecutor's office has been issued in this regard.

The public prosecutor's office of the Netherlands Antilles, which is coordinating the investigation, described the motives of the raids conducted on Tuesday as "presumptions of fraud-related offenses committed by people within the public administration on Bonaire." These offences were discovered during a year-long major money laundering investigation in the Antilles

and in Europe.

Within the scope of this coordinated international criminal investigation, confiscations took place at a number of locations in Curaçao, Bonaire, Aruba and a couple of European countries, including Holland, Belgium and Austria.

The Public Prosecutor's Office in Holland also disclosed that the main suspect in the investigation, a 39-year-old Dutchman with the initials W.W., was arrested on Tuesday. The prosecutor's office suspects that he was on his way to South America to regulate another drug shipment to Holland, via West Africa.

Concerning W., El Hage said he

only knew him as a computer expert and consultant for government. "I don't know what the connection between him and De Groot is or was," El Hage said.

While investigating the money-laundering practices, a large scale gold smuggling ring operating via Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles was uncovered. This smuggling of gold is related to an arrest on March 27 this year in the USA. The detained person is suspected of large-scale drug trafficking of cocaine out of Colombia. More than eight billion US dollars reportedly passed through the accounts in the USA which this person was managing. □

New entry permit system passed for rich investors

WILLEMSTAD--The Antillean government has introduced a new permit system for investors. This new entry permit is called an "investor permit" and is geared towards what government describes as "bona fide powerfully wealthy foreigners" who would like to stay in the Netherlands Antilles without choosing to take up residence here or do business here.

Potential investors will have to comply with a number of conditions to be eligible for the investor permit.

The most important condition is that the investor is obligated to conduct a business investment and/or real estate investment with a total minimum value of NAf. 650,000 guilders. This investment should be made 18 months, at the latest, after the first request for the permit is completed. No indication or clarification was provided by government as to how broadly the word "investment" was viewed and what

exactly an "investment" entailed.

Additionally, the investor must deposit NAf. 50,000 guilders per year in the crime-fighting fund of the island upon which he/she wishes to establish the investment. The investor will be allowed to stay a maximum of 120 days per year in the Antilles and will have to secure sickness insurance coverage similar to the coverage SVB provides, from a renowned insurance company. The ministerial decree regarding the investor permit states that these investors should benefit Antillean interests by bringing in foreign currency, stimulating the economy and also by contributing to the community through investment in real estate on the various Antillean islands. The regulation has been geared towards independent entrepreneurs, "knowledge immigrants and foreigners" who stimulate the economic development of the islands. □

Marlin to Curaçao for meetings today

PHILIPSBURG--Constitutional Affairs Commissioner William Marlin heads to Curaçao for a meeting of the Ministerial Steering Group on Constitutional Affairs. Marlin told the press Wednesday that St. Maarten had hardly been represented at these sessions, a situation that the new government was aiming to change.

Former Commissioner now Opposition Leader Sarah Wescot-Williams had hardly ever attended these meetings, held once weekly, and attended by the Council of Ministers and the Curaçao Island Government, he added. If the island was represented at all, it was by an advisor, Marlin claimed. For the past two weeks, the commissioner and other government representatives have not attended the meeting in person, but have participated via teleconference.

Marlin, Finance Commissioner Xavier Blackman and three or four advisors will be in Curaçao next Friday for the preparatory meeting for the Kingdom Steering Group Meeting planned for September 30. □

Stocks extend gains to 5 days after jobs report

By TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Investors poured money into stocks for a fifth day after a drop in weekly unemployment claims and a spike in oil raised hopes for the economy. Falling interest rates on Treasury securities also fed demand for stocks. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 80 points Thursday to its highest close since October. The index is up 347 points in five days, its longest winning streak since last fall.

The gains have come even as analysts say the market is overdue for a retreat. The latest push higher followed the Labor Department's report that jobless claims fell more than expected to 550,000 last week. A jump in oil lifted energy companies and an upbeat forecast from consumer products maker Procter & Gamble Co. added to enthusiasm about an economic recovery.

Bond prices surged after a \$12 billion auction of 30-year Treasury notes drew strong demand.

Momentum grew in midafternoon as Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told a Congressional panel that confidence and stability were returning to the economy after the panic that began a year ago.

Some pieces of bad news held back certain shares but didn't get in the way of a broad

market advance. Agricultural company Monsanto Co. warned that its 2009 earnings would come in at the low end of its forecast and said it would cut more jobs than previously announced.

Investors voiced concerns about the pace of the gains but few wanted to stand in the way of a market that was carving its way higher. The Standard & Poor's 500 index has risen 54.3 percent since hitting a 12-year low in March. It is sitting at an 11-month high, though it's still down 33.3 percent from its peak in October 2007.

David Bianco, chief U.S. equity strategist at Banc of America Securities-Merrill Lynch in New York, said the rally has merit because stocks had tumbled so far since their peak.

The S&P 500 index was 56.8 percent by early March.

"This is a rally that's supported by the fundamentals," he said. "Maybe it's moving a little bit too fast for the normal rules of thumb but we haven't seen a crash like that since the Great Depression."

The Dow rose 80.26, or 0.8 percent, to 9,627.48 to its highest close since Oct. 6, when it ended at 9,956. The index is up 3.7 percent in five days.

The broader S&P 500 index rose 10.77, or 1 percent, to 1,044.14, its first five-day climb since a streak that ended Nov. 28.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 23.63, or 1.2 percent, to 2,084.02.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note fell to 3.36 percent from 3.48 percent late Wednesday. The yield on the 30-year bond fell to 4.20 percent from 4.33 percent.

Investors made selective bets on companies following a mixed batch of corporate forecasts. P&G rose \$2.28, or 4.2 percent, to \$56.04, while Monsanto fell \$4.18, or 5 percent, to \$79.30.

Ralph Fogel, co-chief investment officer at Fogel Neale Partners in New York, argues that too many analysts are now expecting a pullback for it to actually happen. He pointed to a well-tested piece of Wall Street wisdom that if a certain prediction becomes too widely expected in the marketplace, that conclusion is often wrong.

"I'm not sure why sure this market is going to slow up so much," Fogel said. "We look for a nice continued move upward."



FILE - In this Sept. 30, 2008 file photo, Wall St. is shown in New York. Investors are adding more money to stocks following a drop in weekly unemployment claims Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009, and an upbeat forecast from Procter & Gamble.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, file)

Some analysts remain cautious. Subodh Kumar, global investment strategist at Subodh Kumar & Associates in Toronto, contends that the market has gone too far without a break.

"The fact that it got here without any meaningful corrections means it hasn't stopped since March to test the validity of its assumptions," he said.

Three stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 813.5 million shares compared with 875.3

million at the same point Wednesday.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 8.50, or 1.5 percent, to 594.90.

The dollar fell against other major currencies. Gold slipped.

Light, sweet crude rose 63 cents to \$71.94 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Overseas, Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.3 percent, Germany's DAX index rose 0.4 percent, and France's CAC-40 fell 0.1 percent. Japan's Nikkei stock average rose 2 percent. □

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Although you'd be hard-pressed to find it in a college text, physicists more or less agree on the existence of what they call the Zero Point Energy, a random sea of fluctuating frequencies of energy that permeate all of the three dimensional spacetime in which we live. It has been shown that the Zero Point Energy can be influenced by an electrical charge, and Human Beings are electromagnetic creatures.

When it is not being watched, energy exists in the form of waves, an infinite ocean of random frequencies. When we observe it in a certain way, the wavy energy becomes a particle. We form the sea of random energy into a tight concentration of energy, just by looking at it.

The Zero Point Energy is the infinite sea of random energy waves. Our emotions, thoughts and actions generate electromagnetic frequencies that organize and focus the random Zero Point Energy into specific concentrated particles that become our three dimensional world. The three dimensional world is a result of our emotions, thoughts and actions, even while our emotions, thoughts and actions are directly affected by three dimensions. This is a perfect feedback loop, where we create our environment, and our environment influences the environment that we create, all in real-time.

Three dimensional life begins with our creation of it, and we create it by observing it in our lives. This is indeed a paradox, which means that two or more forces seem to oppose each other, but can empower each other when used properly. We create our environment by observing it in our lives, logically, emotionally and physically.

When we become aware abundance, we can see it in our lives. What happens to random energy when we observe it? It becomes focused as three dimensional matter, that represents what you are focusing on.

There is a chaotic sea of random energy that creates matter. We organize the random energy into three dimensional matter by looking at it with a specific focus, a specific intent. Three dimensional matter is 100% real. Random energy is 0% real. There are infinite variations of potential in

between. The more we focus our goal onto the random Zero Point Energy that surrounds us, the more three dimensional or "real" it becomes.

Your focus over time is the process of manifestation. When you consciously focus on your goal as often as possible every day, your intent builds momentum, until it reaches a critical mass and appears in your life. If you don't focus for a few days, you will lose precious momentum, as the form slips back toward 0% real. The organization you have built begins to fall back into the lower energy state of chaos. It takes your consistent focused energy to build order from chaos.

This is why you must be absolutely clear about what you want.

Your focus creates your future.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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This girl is ready for some football, aren't you?

By Lucy Adams

Life's Little Lessons

Here are the top 10 reasons women love SEC football:

10. Cooler temperatures come with football season. The men in our lives sweat less and smell better.

9. Even when the Dawgs choke on a chicken bone, a bad day in Athens (Oxford, Knoxville, Tuscaloosa, pick your place) beats a beautiful day in Aruba, Vail or Bermuda.

8. We can count on our husbands to skip work on Saturdays. They know better than to make important decisions or sign vital documents while under game-day anesthesia. Ladies enjoy Power of Attorney for a full 12 hours each weekend.

7. During football season, optimism reigns supreme.

If their team starts out ranked in the top 25, men fall into believing that somehow, some way, their alma mater will make it to the NCAA championship bowl game. They thrill at watching flukes like Appalachian State embarrassing Michigan and Kentucky licking Louisville.

They follow the national polls, marking the rise and fall of every school. They get wound up in convoluted logic like if so-and-so loses to so-and-so but wins over so-and-so and we then trump so-and-so, we have a Vegas chance.

If their team loses its SEC opener, men buoyantly remark, to us, their beloved confidants, "Well, look at it this way. We blew the biggest game of our season right off the bat. Now we don't have the stress of worrying something quirky might happen and we'll end up No. 1 or 2 in the nation. We can relax and I can go hunting more."

Either way, with his head buried in ESPN, or with his body sitting in a deer stand, he won't notice the decorator you hired to redo the house.

6. Football season is a dynamic process, during which attitudes and allegiances and

allegations fluctuate week to week. Before the kickoff of the Georgia vs. South Carolina debacle in 2006, my husband threw all things burgundy into the doghouse. After the game, however, he said: a) he would never again wear the shirt he had on, and b) he hoped South Carolina won the rest of their games. After next Saturday the fight song will have a different tune. But change keeps life interesting.

5. It's marriage therapy. Four months of the year, September through December, the emotional upheavals awarded us by UGA football bind my husband and I together in holy mutual discord.

4. Tailgating, i.e., eating, drinking, yelling, "How 'bout them Dawgs," walking an aerobic mile to and from the stadium, then eating, drinking, and yelling, "How 'bout them Dawgs," some more, is on every girl's diet.

3. Nothing resonates more lyrical than the voices of Southeastern Conference commentators and coaches on a Saturday afternoon in September, even when they say things as intelligent as a South Carolina teen beauty-queen. Each phrase, said in a Southern gentleman's drawl, pleases the ear more than Mozart.

2. Every dark cloud has a red-and-black lining (blue and orange, yellow and purple, or whatever, depending on the team) backed by green folding money. When Georgia loses, I blame it on my outfit, which I then vow never to wear again. Thus, a groom-endorsed, retail pick-me-up to purchase team-color clothes with better karma stitched in always follows defeat. Big grin.

Beaus even express opinions stronger than, "Yeah, sure. Looks good. Get it. I'll wait on this bench." Each takes an intense interest in selecting garments that match the team color-swatch in his pocket.

And finally (Drum roll, please):

1. If there's a better feeling, a better pastime, a better high than rallying around SEC football, God must have saved it for himself! □

Record companies sue 'Ellen' show over copyrights

By TRAVIS LOLLER,
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Some of the world's largest recording companies are suing "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," claiming producers violated their copyrights by playing more than 1,000 songs without permission.

Many of the songs were played during the "dance over" segment of the show, when DeGeneres dances from the stage to the interview area, often through the audience.

According to the suit filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Nashville, when representatives of the recording companies asked defendants why they hadn't obtained licenses to use the songs, defendants said they didn't "roll that way."

"As sophisticated consumers of music,

Defendants knew full well that, regardless of the way they rolled, under the Copyright Act, and under state law for the pre-1972 recordings, they needed a license to use the sound recordings lawfully," the suit states.

Scott Rowe, spokesman for the show's Telepictures Productions, wrote in an e-mailed statement that the company has been working with the record labels for months to resolve the issue and remains willing to resolve it on "amicable and reasonable terms."

Rowe said the issue does not involve DeGeneres, who on Wednesday was named as the fourth judge on TV's "American Idol," and whom Rowe calls "a tremendous music enthusiast and advocate."

The suit claims the daytime talk show has used copyrighted music without

permission since its inception, including "recordings by virtually every major current artist of popular music." It claims the show routinely used some of the most popular songs of the day, which the record labels don't license for daytime television at any price.

Other songs cited in the lawsuit include Michael Jackson's "Thriller"; The Beach Boys' "Good Vibrations" and Will Smith's "Gettin' Jiggy Wit It."

The suit calls the segment and the music played by the show's own disc jockey "signature elements of the show."

Plaintiffs include Arista Music, Atlantic Recording Corp., Capitol Records, Motown Record Company, Sony Music Entertainment, Virgin Records America and Warner Bros. Records.

The suit does not specify the dollar amount it seeks in damages.



Illness forcing Maura Tierney from 'Parenthood'



FILE - In this May 12, 2009 file photo, actress Maura Tierney poses for a portrait at the NBC In Front presentation at Universal Studios Hollywood in Universal City, Calif.

(AP Photo/Dan Steinberg, file)

Jackson tribute to kick off MTV Music Video Awards

By JAKE COYLE,
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK — Before the MTV Video Music Awards settles into its annual teenybopper party, the ceremony will have a tender moment. Janet Jackson will kick off the show on Sunday night with a tribute to her late brother. Michael Jackson's death on June 25 was soon followed by the BET Awards (where Janet Jackson also appeared), but the King of Pop was identified more closely with MTV, the music network. Though MTV dragged its feet at first in showing music videos of blacks, the network's meteoric rise in the '80s came in tandem with Jackson's, whose music videos like "Thriller" and "Bad" set the standard for the form.

The VMAs are familiar ground for the family. Janet Jackson has won nine VMAs. Michael Jackson famously opened the 1994 VMAs by kissing his then-wife, Lisa Marie Presley.

MTV will also premiere the trailer for "This Is It," the documentary about Jackson's preparations to hold 50 concerts in London. "There's obviously lots of emotion around Michael and the memory of Michael, but I think it's going to be a pretty celebratory kind of night all around," said Dave Sirulnick, the show's executive producer and vice president of production at MTV. "It's all about that balance." Sirulnick declined to give specifics to the Jackson tribute, but said that there's been "quite a few people working hard on it for quite a number of weeks now." Since the Jacksons' heyday, though, the importance of videos has diminished greatly — a development ironically evident at the Video Music Awards. The network's trademark Moonmen trophies will be handed out (Beyoncé and Lady Gaga lead the pack with nine nominations), but the awards will be a minor part of the spectacle. □



FILE - Singer-songwriter Lady Gaga poses for a portrait at Interscope Records in Santa Monica, Calif., March 11, 2009.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

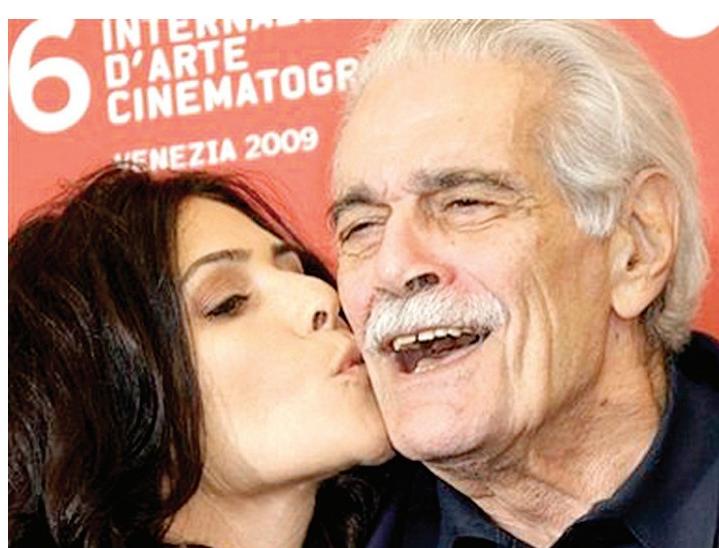
Omar Sharif returns to big screen at Venice

By SHERI JENNINGS,
Associated Press Writer

VENICE, Italy — Omar Sharif, whose devilishly handsome looks delighted female fans decades ago, has returned to the big screen at the Venice Film Festival Thursday in a film about an elderly man's encounter with a woman he loved in his youth. "The Traveler," an Egyptian film by first-time feature director Ahmed Maher, is vying for the festival's Golden Lion award. Maher told reporters he came up with the project nine years ago.

"It's a dream to have Omar Sharif in the cast," Maher said. The film goes over three days in the life of 80-year-old Hassan, played by the 77-year-old Sharif. After a chance meeting with Noura, a woman from his past played by Cyrine Abdel Nour, he meets her daughter, Nadia. Seeking a source of identity, he tries to become one of the family.

Shifting with ease between Italian and French at a news conference, Sharif — who began his film career in Egypt and went on to become an international sex symbol in "Lawrence of Arabia," his first English-language film, and "Doctor Zhivago"



Actress Basma Hassan kisses Egyptian actor Omar Sharif during the photo call for the film 'Al Mosafer (The Traveller)' at the 66th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009.

(AP Photo/Joe Ryan)

— glanced back at his life. "I am the only actor in the world that doesn't have a center to my life. I've lived in hotels all my life and I eat in restaurants — always," he laughed. "I've had a happy life, no reason to cry." □

NEW YORK — Maura Tierney says she is dropping out of the new NBC series "Parenthood" to continue treatment for breast cancer.

In a statement Thursday, she expressed disappointment at not being part of the show, but said she and her doctors are confident about the outcome of her treatment.

Tierney had filmed the pilot episode for the series, but in July she was sidelined after a tumor was found in her breast. Production never resumed.

Another new series, the medical drama "Mercy," will premiere this fall instead.

"Parenthood," based on the 1989 movie that starred Steve Martin, will debut midseason, with Tierney's role expected to be recast. □

Greenland's melt mystery unfolds, at glacial pace



This Aug. 23, 2009 photo shows University of Maine glaciologist Gordon Hamilton and graduate student Kristin Schild working on a GPS receiver tracking the flow speed of Helheim Glacier in southeast Greenland. Like Greenland's other major glaciers, it accelerated earlier this decade, contributing to the melt of the ice sheet and sea level rise.

(AP Photo/Karl Ritter)

By KARL RITTER,
Associated Press Writer

HELHEIM GLACIER, Greenland — Suddenly and without warning, the gigantic river of ice sped up, causing it to spit icebergs ever faster into the ocean off southeastern Greenland. Helheim Glacier nearly doubled its speed in just a few years, flowing through a rift in the barren coastal mountains at a stunning 100 feet (30 meters) per day.

Alarm bells rang as the pattern was repeated by glaciers across Greenland: Was the island's vast ice sheet, a frozen water reservoir that could raise the sea level 20 feet if disgorged, in danger of collapse?

Half a decade later, there's a little bit of good news — and a lot of uncertainty.

"It does seem that the very rapid speeds were only sustained for a short period of time although none of these glaciers have returned to the 'normal' flow speeds yet," says Gordon Hamilton, a glaciologist from the University of Maine, who's clocked Helheim's rapid advance using GPS receivers on site since 2005.

Understanding why Greenland's glaciers accelerated so abruptly in the first half of the decade — and whether they are now slowing down — is crucial to the larger question of how fast sea levels will rise as the planet warms.

The issue has gained urgency as scientists rush to supply their latest findings in time for negotiations on a new global climate pact, set for December in Copenhagen.

Scientists say the Greenland ice sheet, which is up to 2 miles (3 kilometers) thick and covers an area almost the size of Mexico, is losing about 7 billion cubic feet (200 million cubic meters) of ice a year — the equivalent of 80,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

That means snowfall on top of the ice sheet is not enough to replace what is lost through surface melting and ice chucked out in the fjords by faster-flowing glaciers. In the process, sea levels rise as towering icebergs plunge into the Atlantic Ocean and displace water — much like an ice cube dropped into a drink. The dynamics of the ice sheet on Greenland — and the much larger ones on Antarctica — were not included in sea level rise projections by the U.N. expert panel on climate change in 2007 because the phenomenon was poorly mapped at the time.

The picture of what happened in Greenland is just starting to come together, and scientists are still in the dark about how the underlying causes were set in motion, how much was owed to natural variances and how much to man's tinkering with the global climate system.

"This is like medical science in the 15th century," says David Holland, director of the Center for Atmosphere Ocean Science

at New York University. "It's going to take a while to find out what's going on with the patient here."

The most popular explanation is that the patient — Greenland's ice sheet — contracted its ailment not from warmer air, but a warmer ocean.

Scientists earlier believed that the biggest factor for the faster flow speeds was meltwater seeping down to the base of the glaciers, lubricating the bedrock. They're now shifting attention to ocean currents believed to have sent pulses of warmer water from southern latitudes to Greenland's glacial fjords.

Holland found that such water was reaching the edge of western Greenland's biggest glacier, Sermeq Kujalleq. A team led by Fiamma

Stranneo, of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, made a similar discovery last month with probes plunged into the chilly depths of Sermilik fjord, where Helheim Glacier ends.

"We've had a confirmation that the waters are really coming up to the glacier," Stranneo says, her voice nearly drowned by engine noise aboard the Arctic Sunrise, a Greenpeace ship that offered her a chance to test her hypothesis. "This is the first time that we've seen it in these southeast glacial fjords."

In July, the world's oceans were the warmest in almost 130 years of record-keeping. Meteorologists say a combination of factors are at work, including a natural El Nino system, man-made

global warming and a dash of random weather.

Coinciding with the shrinking of sea ice on the North Pole and the thawing of the Arctic permafrost, the discovery of Greenland's runaway glaciers earlier this decade raised a sense of urgency among scientists studying the impact of climate change on the frozen north.

It has also been used by advocacy groups like Greenpeace to stress the importance of reaching a deal in Copenhagen to limit global greenhouse emissions.

Fearing that a possible deal is in danger, European foreign ministers announced Thursday they were stepping up efforts to make sure that nations around the world face up to global warming. □

Effects of Arctic warming seen as widespread

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID,

AP Science Writer WASHINGTON — Arctic warming is affecting plants, birds, animals and insects as ice melts and the growing season changes, scientists report in a new review of the many impacts climate change is having on the far north.

As the global climate changes, the Arctic Circle has been warming faster than other regions and scientists have documented a series of affects on wildlife in the region.

Indeed, just last week researchers reported that the Arctic is warmer than it's been in 2,000 years, even though it should be cooling because of changes in the Earth's orbit that cause the region to get less direct sunlight.

"The Arctic as we know it may soon be a thing of the past," Eric Post, an associate professor of biology at Penn State University, said in a statement.

Post led a research team that studied the Arctic during the International Polar Year, which ended in 2008. Their findings are reported in Friday's edition of the journal *Science*.

Snow cover has declined steadily in recent years and in the last two to three decades the minimum sea ice coverage declined sharply, a change that affect animals like polar bears that depend on the ice for habitat and hunting.

"Species on land and at sea are suffering adverse consequences of human behavior at latitudes thousands of miles away," Post said. "It seems no matter where you look — on the ground, in the air, or in the water — we're seeing signs of rapid change."

In addition, he added, the Arctic is very complex and "not all populations within a given species respond similarly to warming because physical and landscape features that interact with climate can vary tremendously from site to site."

For example, migratory caribou in Greenland and elsewhere are declining, the researchers said, since the animals have not been able to adjust their calving season to keep it synchronized with changes in plant growth. As a result, the time when the females need the most food no longer matches the time when the most food is available, and fewer calves survive. In addition, warmer weather can produce more insects and parasites to prey on the caribou.

On the other hand, wild reindeer on the Norwegian islands of Svalbard appear to have benefited from the earlier seasonal loss of snow cover. These animals don't migrate and the longer growing season and less snow cover means more food for them.

The researchers found that with warmer conditions red foxes are moving north, displacing Arctic foxes from their territories. Also expanding their territories to the north are the winter moth, which defoliates mountain birch forests, and species of Arctic trees and shrubs. Having more shrubs can provide food for reindeer and musk oxen grazing, and their trampling and defecation encourages the growth of grasses, which in turn attract geese.

And, as if to help prove the case, the U.S. Geological Survey reported separately that the Pacific brant, a small sea goose, has shifted northward from areas such as Mexico to sub-Arctic areas as Alaska's climate has warmed over the last four decades.

Before 1977 only about 3,000 brant were detected wintering in Alaska, while now that has jumped to as many as 40,000 birds.

The changing Arctic climate appears related to changes in the availability and abundance of eelgrass, the primary food of brant in their nonbreeding season, survey researchers said.



On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Friday, September 11, 2009



Construction cranes work above the Freedom Tower at the World Trade Center, Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009, in New York. Friday will mark the eighth anniversary of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Associated Press

Sept. 11: becomes day of service

SUZANNE MA

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans planned beach cleanups, packages for soldiers and save-the-tree fundraisers along with familiar remembrances in three cities to mark eight years since the attacks of Sept. 11, the first time the anniversary was named a national day of service.

"Instead of us simply remembering the horrible events and more importantly the heroes who lost their lives on 9/11, we are all going to turn into local heroes," said Ted Tenenbaum, a Los Angeles repair shop owner who offered free handyman services Thursday and planned to do so again Friday.

Similar donations of time and labor were planned across the country after President Barack Obama and Congress declared the day would be dedicated to service this year for the first time.

Some Americans are suspicious about the new commemoration, though, fearing it could overshadow a somber day of remembrance for nearly 3,000 people killed aboard four jetliners and at the World

Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon, and a field in western Pennsylvania.

"When I first heard about it, I was concerned," said Debra Burlingame, whose brother was the American Airlines pilot of the hijacked jet that crashed into the Pentagon. "I fear, I greatly fear, at some point we'll transition to turning it into Earth Day where we go and plant trees and the remembrance part will become smaller, and smaller, and smaller."

In a column in American Spectator magazine last month, conservative commentator Matthew Vadum wrote that the push for volunteerism was an attempt "to try to change 9/11 from a day of reflection and remembrance to a day of activism, food banks and community gardens."

The criticism didn't dampen spirits of those who planned to participate, though. Sue Katz, a tour bus guide in New York City, planned a walking tour in Central Park to raise money to repair damage after hundreds of century-old trees were toppled by a recent storm.

Katz called the park "New York City's

lungs" and said of the fundraiser, "This is my way to give back."

A Boston group founded by victims' family members — two of the four planes left from Boston — planned to write letters to U.S. soldiers overseas and pack CARE packages. In San Diego, Dave Matthews Band bassist Stefan Lessard is sponsoring a cleanup of Ocean Beach.

Volunteers who made firefighters' meals or helped remove tons of debris from the World Trade Center site planned to join family members to read names of more than 2,700 victims killed when hijacked jetliners crashed into the towers on Sept. 11, 2001.

Vice President Joe Biden was scheduled to attend the ceremony in New York, while President Barack Obama was to meet with family members for a ceremony at the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C. In New York, thousands planned moments of silence four times — twice for when jetliners crashed into a Trade Center tower, and for the moments the towers collapsed.

Continued on Page B3

Death rate for children under 5 continues decline

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS (AP)

— It is unacceptable that 8.8 million children die every year before their fifth birthday — 40 percent of them in India, Nigeria and Congo, the U.N. children's agency said Thursday.

New data released by UNICEF and published online in The Lancet, a British medical journal, shows a continuing decline in the death rate for youngsters under the age of 5, a trend that has continued for the last two decades.

Progress has been seen in every part of the world, including some of the least developed countries. But UNICEF said the global rate of improvement is still not sufficient to reach the U.N. Millennium Development Goal of a two-thirds reduction in under-five child mortality between 1990 and 2015.

"Compared to 1990, 10,000 fewer children are dying every day," UNICEF Executive Director Ann Veneman said in a statement. "While progress is being made, it is unacceptable that each year 8.8 million children die before their fifth birthday."

According to the latest data, Africa and Asia account for 93 percent of all under-five deaths.

"A handful of countries with large populations bear a disproportionate burden of under-five deaths, with 40 percent of the world's under-five deaths occurring in just three countries: India, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo," Veneman said.

"Unless mortality in these countries can be significantly reduced, the (U.N. Millennium Development Goal) targets will not be met," she warned. The two leading causes of under-five mortality are pneumonia and diarrhea, according to the data. □

Obama accepts lawmaker's apology for floor remark



In this Wednesday Sept. 9, 2009, Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., center, points and says "You lie!" as President Barrack Obama addresses a Joint Session of Congress concerning healthcare, in Washington.

Associated Press

LAURIE KELLMAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama accepted a South Carolina Republican's apology for shouting, "You lie!" during his speech to Congress, and House Democratic leaders showed no interest in sanctions against Rep. Joe Wilson. Obama said

Thursday that Wilson apologized "quickly and without equivocation" and the congressman told reporters the shout-out was "spontaneous."

"We all make mistakes," Obama told reporters, a day after Wilson stunned the president and his colleagues with his outburst.

Infuriated Democrats briefly considered

sanctioning the four-term congressman, but decided early to look beyond it.

"It's time for us to talk about health care, not Mr. Wilson," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat.

Though stunned and visibly furious at the interruption, Pelosi said she opted not to gavel down Wilson on the spot. Obama, she said, was right to pitch right back into his speech and not "give it any more attention than it deserved."

Wilson told reporters Thursday morning he was "very grateful" to have been able to have a talk with the White House. He said officials there voiced an interest in "a civil conversation" on health care and said he agreed with that.

"It was spontaneous," he said. "It was when he (Obama) stated, as he did, about not (health care insurance) not covering illegal aliens ... We need to discuss the issues and I'm happy to do that."

The reaction to Wilson's outburst was punishing even without official House action.

His Web site crashed, he took a beating on Twitter as Republicans and Democrats alike condemned his behavior.

Wilson bolted the chamber as soon as Obama was finished speaking. Shortly thereafter, he issued an apology and called the White House to deliver one to

the president personally. But he ended up on the line with Rahm Emanuel, Obama's fiery chief of staff, instead.

"This evening I let my emotions get the best of me," he said in a statement. "While I disagree with the president's statement, my comments were inappropriate and regrettable. I extend sincere apologies to the president for this lack of civility."

The morning talk shows were mere hours away.

"I was embarrassed for the chamber and a Congress I love," Vice President Joe Biden said Thursday on ABC's "Good Morning America." "It demeaned the institution."

"I know that Congressman Wilson has issued an apology and made his thoughts known to the White House, which was the appropriate thing to do," said House Minority Whip Eric Cantor, a Virginia Republican. Back on Wilson's home turf, the uproar turned into a boon for Democrat Rob Miller, his opponent in next year's midterm elections.

In the first 24 hours after Wilson's outburst, Miller's campaign coffers swelled by \$200,000, according to Jessica Santillo of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. The contribution, she said, came in from 5,000 individual contributions. □



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Suit claims Milwaukee police coerced witnesses

By DINESH RAMDE

Associated Press Writer

MILWAUKEE — A man who served 13 years in prison before his homicide conviction was overturned sued the city of Milwaukee and its police department Thursday, the same day authorities filed new charges against a man whose DNA they say was found on the victim.

Chaunte D. Ott, who was convicted in 1995 in the death of a 16-year-old runaway, claims in his federal lawsuit that officers coerced two people to give false testimony and failed to intervene when DNA tests after his conviction showed he did not commit the crime.

SEPT 11

Continued from Page B1

A wreath was to be laid at a memorial to the Pentagon, where 184 people died when a hijacked jet slammed into the building. Obama and Defense Secretary Robert Gates were to meet with victims' family members.

The president will "speak about what the day means and the sacrifices of thousands, not just at the Pentagon, but in Pennsylvania and certainly and most obviously in New York," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said.

Near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where United Airlines Flight 93 crashed, former Secretary of State Colin Powell will deliver the keynote speech.

At 10:03 a.m., the time the plane crashed, the names of the 40 passengers and crew will be read and bells will be tolled.

Among the hundreds of people expected to attend is Jose Melendez-Perez, a Customs agent credited with refusing entry to the country a man officials believe was supposed to be the fifth hijacker aboard the flight. The official 9/11 Commission report said hijackers deliberately crashed the plane in Pennsylvania as passengers were trying to wrest control of the cockpit.

"I'm still kind of stunned they had audacity to proclaim I'm guilty of that crime," Ott, 35, told The Associated Press. "But my attitude is, I've never been bitter. I feel like I just have to live each day." Authorities have now linked the DNA to Walter E. Ellis, 49, of Milwaukee. Police and prosecutors said his DNA matched samples taken from the runaway, Jessica Payne, and at least eight suspected prostitutes killed from 1986 to 2007. Ellis, already facing two counts of first-degree intentional homicide, was charged Thursday with three more counts of first-degree intentional homicide and two counts of first-degree murder

— the equivalent charge that was state law when the deaths occurred, Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm said.

Each charge carries a maximum penalty of life in prison. Ellis' attorney, Alejandro Lockwood, did not return a message Thursday seeking comment.

Ellis has not been charged in Payne's slaying or in the death of one of the suspected prostitutes. While the other eight women were strangled, Payne was found partially nude with her throat slit. A DNA profile from semen on Payne's body did not match Ott, the lawsuit said.

Chisholm said Thursday the



Milwaukee County Sheriffs deputies lead alleged serial killer Walter E. Ellis into court for his initial court appearance, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009, in Milwaukee. Ellis was ordered held on \$1 Million bail in connection with the murders of two Milwaukee woman. Police say Ellis' DNA was found on the bodies of nine woman who were killed between 1986 and 2007.

Associated Press

investigation into Payne's death was continuing, but declined to speculate on whether charges would be filed in her killing.

Dawn Payne, Jessica's stepmother, said she didn't want to comment on the latest developments.

Chisholm wouldn't comment on the lawsuit filed by Ott. Prosecutors have reserved the right to refile charges against him.

Ott, who said he didn't know Ellis, has maintained his innocence. The Oak Creek man said he could have agreed to a 10-year sentence in exchange for a guilty plea, but he refused.

"I never regretted that decision," Ott said. "I knew the truth was going to come out sooner or later."

He was convicted in 1995. The Wisconsin Innocence Project took up his case in 2002, and

tests concluded the DNA in the case didn't match his. Ott was freed in January after a state appeals court ruled that he deserved a new trial.

His lawsuit does not specify the damages sought. Ott's attorney, Jon Loevy, noted that in similar cases people have been awarded \$1 million or more for each year of wrongful incarceration. The suit names as defendants the city, two former police chiefs and at least eight present and former detectives. Milwaukee police spokeswoman Anne E. Schwartz said the department felt it had probable cause when it arrested Ott, and noted that a jury had found him guilty.

"We recognize that DNA technology evolved long after the trial was over that was sophisticated enough to prove that Ott did not have sex with the victim," she said in a statement. □



Visitors to the temporary Flight 93 memorial participate in a sunset ceremony of opening a large commemorative flag, Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009, in Shanksville, Pa. United Flight 93 crashed in Shanksville, Pa., Sept. 11, 2001, after passengers and crew diverted the hijacked airplane from its intended target Washington, D.C.

Associated Press

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Democrats say health care bill to pass this year

DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic congressional leaders predicted passage of health care legislation within a few months despite undimmed Republican opposition, claiming momentum Thursday from President Barack Obama's speech and renewed commitment from lawmakers fresh from a month of meetings with constituents.

Increasingly, events in the Senate Finance Committee appeared pivotal, precursor to likely votes in both the House and the Senate by early October. "I'm confident the president will sign a bill this year," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California.

Obama's speech to a joint congressional session Wednesday night was a sweeping defense of changing a health care system that he and others contend could bankrupt the world's largest economy.

While effusively praising Obama's speech from the night before, Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada signaled separately the president may not prevail in his call for legislation that allows the federal government to sell insurance in competition with private industry.

Reid said that while he favors a strong "public option," he could be satisfied with establishment of nonprofit cooperatives, along the lines expected to be included in the bill taking shape in the Finance Committee.

Pelosi, who has long favored a measure that allows the government to sell insurance, passed up a chance to say it was a nonnegotiable demand.

As long as legislation makes quality health care more accessible and affordable, "we will go forward with



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev. takes part in a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009.

Associated Press

that bill," she said. Democrats are divided over the public option in both houses, liberals strongly in favor and many moderates against it. Critically, though, it appears that any chance for Republican support would evaporate if legislation permits immediate, direct competition between the government and insurance industry.

On the morning after his speech, Obama renewed his campaign for passage of his top domestic priority. Declaring that too many individuals are being denied coverage, he said, "It is heartbreaking and it is wrong and nobody should be treated that way in the United States of America. Nobody!"

He also cited new Census statistics showing that the number of uninsured has risen to 46.3 million from 45.7 million in 2007.

In general, the legislation would provide new protections to Americans with insurance, help the uninsured afford coverage, require most individuals to carry coverage and aim to slow the growth of medical costs overall. The measure would be paid for through reductions in planned Medicare spending and tax

increases. Medicare is the government-funded health insurance program for the elderly.

Obama has said his approach will not result in higher deficits, but Congressional Budget Office estimates dispute him.

Most Republicans made clear during the day that Obama's speech had done nothing to lessen their opposition. But they were peppered with questions about Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina, who shouted "You lie" at the president during the speech.

Asked if the episode embarrassed him as party leader in the House of Representatives, Rep. John Boehner of Ohio, said, "I think that Mr. Wilson made it clear that he said his behavior was inappropriate, and he apologized for it. And I'm glad he did."

Obama accepted the apology, telling reporters, "we all make mistakes."

After months of missed deadlines caused by internal division among Democrats and Republican opposition earlier in the year, neither Pelosi nor Reid was willing to outline anything more than a broad timetable for action on the legislation. But increasingly, it

appeared that events in the Finance Committee would determine the pace.

There, Sen. Max Baucus of Montana has said he will convene the panel the week after next to vote on legislation that would meet Obama's goal of expanding health care, providing consumer protection to those with coverage, and slowing the growth of medical spending overall.

Baucus long ago embraced the proposed co-ops rather than direct government competition with industry, and it appears unlikely liberals have the votes to overrule him.

Democrats account for 13 members on the 23-member committee, but Baucus, Sens. Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico and Kent Conrad of North Dakota have been involved in intensive bipartisan negotiations,

and Sens. Tom Carper of Delaware and Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas are part of the party's moderate wing and unlikely to support a liberal alternative.

Obama met Thursday afternoon with Carper, Lincoln, and a dozen other moderate Senate Democrats, some of whom have expressed concerns about costs and oppose a

public plan.

Carper said later that the group welcomed Obama's commitment in his speech to hold down health care costs. "He received a lot of reinforcement from those of us there today that we wouldn't vote for a bill that fails to rein in health costs and we wouldn't vote for a bill that increases the deficit," Carper said in an interview.

Whatever bill the Finance Committee approves must be blended with legislation approved earlier in another panel, and is expected to reach the Senate floor by early October.

Baucus told reporters the president's speech had been "confidence-building" for those involved in weeks of painstaking bipartisan negotiations.

"It's uncannily similar to what we're working on," he said, avoiding mention of the disagreement over government insurance sales. "The president's speech kind of breathed new life into what we're doing because this is basically what our proposal is."

In the Wednesday night speech, Obama was fighting battles to win back flagging public support for revamping a system that has left millions of Americans without health insurance, drives thousands into bankruptcy each day and consumes nearly 20 percent of the country's economy.

The United States is the only developed country without a universal program of health care coverage. While many Americans are dissatisfied with the health care system, attempts to change it are politically explosive. Obama's speech amounted to an attempt to restart the health care debate after a summer in which Republican critics confronted Democrats at town hall meetings and on television. □

Perry says Ranger teams to go to border

MICHAEL GRACZYK

Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Special teams of Texas Rangers will be deployed to the Texas-Mexico border to deal with increasing violence because the federal government has failed to address growing problems there, Gov. Rick Perry said Thursday.

"It is an expansive effort with the Rangers playing a more high-profile role than they've ever played before," Perry said of the Department of Public Safety's elite investigative unit.

The forces, dubbed "Ranger recon" teams, are the latest effort "to fill the gap that's been left by the federal government's ongoing failure to adequately secure our international border with Mexico," he said.

The governor early this year asked Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano for 1,000 National Guard troops and renewed his call last month in a letter to President Barack Obama. The request is bogged down over who will pay for the troops and how they will be deployed.

Perry's announcement Thursday comes amid increasing border violence, particularly in El Paso, and

mostly involving people with ties to Mexican drug gangs.

"They'll be deployed to high-traffic, high-crime areas along the border," he said. "They'll give us boots on the ground, put people in these hot spots no matter what or where they may exist."

Perry said the effort also would focus on remote areas where farmers and ranchers have complained of being overrun by smugglers and gangs from Mexico in numbers that also overwhelm local law enforcement and border patrol officers.

"The fact of the matter is Washington is shortchanging them, not giving them the support they need," Perry said. "As a result, we're having to dedicate our resources to deal with the challenges we have along the Texas-Mexico border and ensuing issues that porous border has created all across the state of Texas."

He said the state would pick up the tab from \$110 million allocated by the legislature in the past two sessions.

Perry's announcement drew immediate criticism U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison,



who is running against the two-term incumbent in the March Republican primary. "Today's announcement is yet another empty election-year promise from Rick Perry on border security," Hutchison spokesman Joe Pounder said, calling it "empty rhetoric and broken promises."

Perry fired back it was the "height of hypocrisy for someone who's been in Washington, D.C., for 16 years, who's had the opportunity to help Texas on our border security, and they've been no more successful in delivering the resources and help."

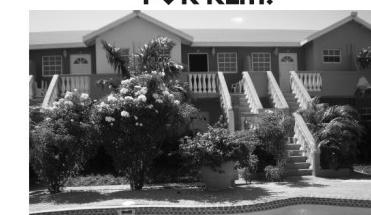
Brig. Gen. Joyce Stevens,

commander of the Texas Army National Guard, said about 200 soldiers and airmen already have started integrated operations with the Rangers.

Tony Leal, assistant director of the Texas Rangers, declined to provide numbers of his officers involved in the effort, saying that wouldn't be helpful. □

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From left to right, French Minister for Urban Affairs Fadela Amara, French Labor Minister Xavier Darcos, French Interior Minister Brice Hortefeux, and High Commissioner for Youth Martin Hirsch attend a press conference following a meeting with youth groups and suburbs associations with Police representatives in Paris Monday, Aug. 31, 2009. The government hopes of easing tensions between police and angry adolescents in immigrant-heavy neighborhoods all over the country.

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France's interior minister has been caught on camera making what sound like anti-Arab remarks, infuriating anti-racism groups, even as he insisted that his words were innocent and misconstrued.

It's an ugly controversy for Brice Hortefeux, the top law enforcement official and a former immigration minister in a country where tensions between police and minority youths occasionally erupt into violence.

French minister defends racist-sounding remark

It's also sensitive for President Nicolas Sarkozy, a longtime friend of Hortefeux, and his conservative government.

A video circulating Thursday on the Internet shows Hortefeux at an event last weekend in southwest France for the governing party UMP, having his picture taken with a young party member of North African origin.

Voices in the primarily white crowd talk of "integration"; one woman says "he's our little Arab." Hortefeux is heard saying "he doesn't fit the prototype at all." Then he says, "We always need one. When there's one, that's all right. It's when there are a lot of them that there are problems." Hortefeux's office released a statement saying the remark

was a "reference to the very many pictures that he had just had taken" with local party members.

"Not a single word by Brice Hortefeux made reference to a supposed ethnic origin of a young activist," it said.

But Hortefeux's critics jumped on the comment.

Activist group SOS Support for Illegal Immigrants said a top court should look into the remarks, accusing him of "racial hatred." Hortefeux has helped carry out Sarkozy's push to keep out and expel illegal immigrants.

An umbrella group of black associations in France, CRAN, said it was "shocked by these unacceptable comments."

Gilbert Roger, the Socialist mayor of Bondy, a Paris suburb

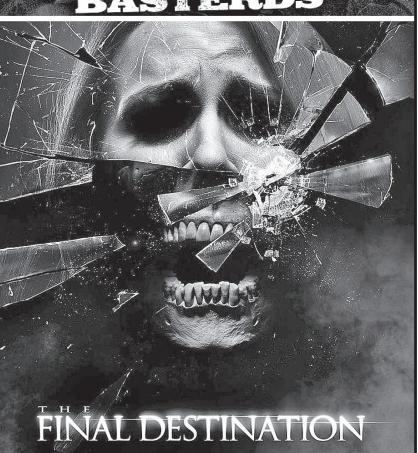
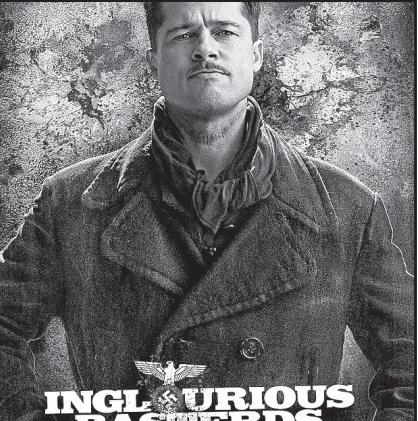
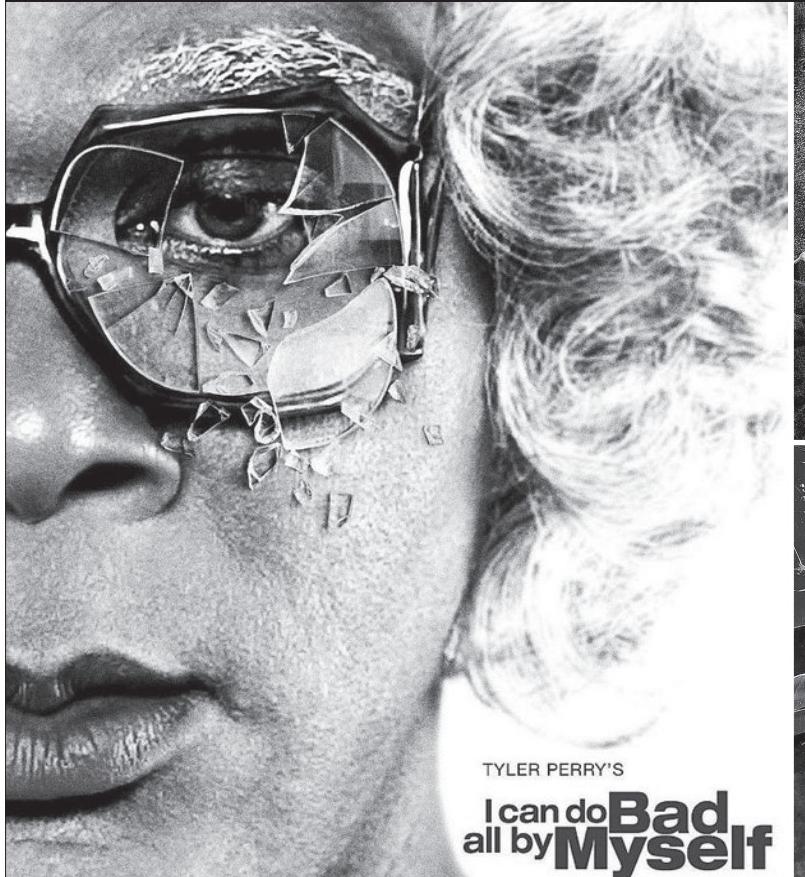
where police have clashed with youths of immigrant background, said Hortefeux "is so disconnected from reality that he is surprised that there is diversity within his own party."

A top official whom Hortefeux recently suspended for racist comments, Paul Girot de Langlade, said on France-Info radio, "I hope he joins me soon."

France has struggled with how to integrate immigrants from its former colonies and beyond, and how to accommodate its growing minority population. Discrimination was one factor behind an explosion of riots largely by black and Arab young men in neglected housing projects around France in 2005. □



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| AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD | | | | | |
|---|-------|------|------------|------------|--|
| PG-13 TYLER PERRY'S I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF | | | | | |
| daily: | 4:00 | 6:30 | 9:00 | | |
| matinee: | 1:00 | | late show: | 11:30 | |
| R FINAL DESTINATION 4 | | | | | |
| daily: | 4:00 | 6:00 | 8:00 | 10:00 | |
| matinee: | 12:00 | 2:00 | late show: | 12:00 | |
| PG ALIENS IN THE ATTIC | | | | | |
| daily: | | 4:45 | | | |
| matinee: | 12:15 | 2:30 | | late show: | |
| R INGLORIOUS BASTERDS | | | | | |
| daily: | | 4:30 | 7:45 | | |
| matinee: | 1:15 | | late show: | 11:00 | |
| R THE ORPHAN | | | | | |
| daily: | | 6:15 | 8:45 | | |
| matinee: | 12:30 | 3:30 | late show: | 11:30 | |
| PG SHORTS | | | | | |
| daily: | | 5:30 | 7:30 | 9:45 | |
| matinee: | 1:30 | 3:30 | late show: | 11:45 | |
| PG-13 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE | | | | | |
| daily: | | 7:00 | 9:15 | | |
| matinee: | | | late show: | 12:00 | |

AT PASEO HERENCIA

| AT PASEO HERENCIA | | | | | |
|---|-------|------|------------|-------|--|
| PG-13 TYLER PERRY'S I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF | | | | | |
| daily: | 6:00 | 8:30 | | | |
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| R INGLORIOUS BASTERDS | | | | | |
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| matinee: | 1:15 | | late show: | 11:00 | |
| PG-13 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE | | | | | |
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| matinee: | 1:45 | | late show: | 11:30 | |
| G-13 JOE: THE RISE OF THE COBRA | | | | | |
| daily: | 6:15 | 8:45 | | | |
| matinee: | 1:00 | 3:30 | late show: | 11:15 | |
| R FINAL DESTINATION 4 | | | | | |
| daily: | 5:30 | 7:30 | 9:30 | | |
| matinee: | 1:30 | 3:30 | late show: | 11:45 | |
| PG-13 DISTRICT 9 | | | | | |
| daily: | 5:15 | 7:45 | 10:00 | | |
| matinee: | 12:30 | 3:00 | late show: | 12:15 | |



Netanyahu mystery trip sets off flap in Israel

JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Benjamin Netanyahu dropped out of sight for most of a day this week, a mysterious absence that has set off feverish speculation about what the Israeli leader was up to — and accusations he lied to cover up a clandestine trip to Moscow.

After initially issuing a vague statement about visiting a top-secret Mossad installation inside Israel, Netanyahu kept silent Thursday as reports emerged that he flew to Moscow aboard a private jet for urgent talks on Iran.

According to various accounts, the Israeli prime minister was either pushing the Russians to halt arms sales to Iran, or warning of an impending strike against Iranian nuclear facilities or discussing the recent disappearance of a Russian-crewed freighter.

A shifting story line from Netanyahu's office and then silence have enraged the local media, which branded the prime minister a liar and painted his office as a chaotic scene of rivalries and disarray.

"Anarchy, turf wars and lies," screamed a headline Thursday in the Haaretz daily.

"Look what happened to the prime minister on his way to Russia: His credibility, which was never sky high, took a hard blow," wrote the Ma'ariv daily in a front-page column. In security-obsessed Israel, keeping sensitive matters under wraps on the grounds of national security has long been accepted by the media, which abide by military censorship rules that force them to sit on security-related news.

But a false cover story? Israeli columnists were outraged.

The affair erupted on Monday when reporters began inquiring about Netanyahu's whereabouts. His schedule had been cleared, there were no public appearances for the latter part of the day and even the prime minister's media adviser, Nir Hefetz, had to

admit he did not know where Netanyahu was.

Late in the evening, Netanyahu's office issued a terse statement from his military secretary saying he was visiting "a security facility in the country."

Then rumors began to trickle out that Netanyahu was on a top-secret overseas mission.

First to emerge were reports of a visit to an undisclosed Arab country that does not have diplomatic ties with Israel, carried in the Palestinian daily Al-Manar and on Web sites throughout the Arab world. But by Wednesday, Israel's largest daily, Yediot Ahronot, was reporting that Netanyahu had flown secretly to Moscow to voice concern over the possible sale of Russian anti-aircraft missiles to Iran. Other Israeli newspapers published similar accounts, saying Netanyahu had made the 15-hour trip on a private plane.

People familiar with Netanyahu's movements said the plane belonged to businessman Yossi Maiman's Merhav Group, an Israeli conglomerate with energy and media interests. Netanyahu leased the plane — instead of using a government aircraft — to help ensure secrecy, they said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter. Merhav had no comment.

Israel considers Iran its greatest threat, citing Tehran's support for Arab militants, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's threatening language about the Jewish state and Iran's nuclear program. Israel, like the U.S. and much of the international community, believes Iran's program is aimed at developing a nuclear bomb. Iran denies this.

Russia, which wields veto power in the U.N. Security Council and has close ties with Iran, could play a crucial role in the debate later this month over imposing additional sanctions on Iran.

The Haaretz daily said Netanyahu discussed Russian arms deals with Iran and

Syria, and that Israel presented evidence that Russian arms were making their way to Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon. In another report, the paper said the talks were also focused on sophisticated anti-aircraft missiles that Russia has agreed to sell to Iran. The delivery of the S-300 missiles would make it much more difficult for Israel to carry out an attack on Iran.

The reported visit follows the hijacking last month of a freighter that was later intercepted by Russia off Cape Verde, thousands of miles from the Algerian port where it was supposed to have docked. A Russian maritime expert and the European Union's top anti-piracy official have suggested the Arctic Sea may have been carrying missiles bound for Iran. Israeli media have speculated the Mossad tipped off the Russians to the illicit cargo.

As the rumors swirled of clandestine talks, Russian officials remained silent. "We have seen these reports in various media, and you know that not all the details add up, but there is nothing more I can tell you," Foreign Ministry spokesman Andrei Nesterenko was quoted as saying Thursday.

The Russian daily Kommersant, citing a "highly placed source in the Kremlin," confirmed the visit and speculated the talks had been on an extremely urgent matter, "like Israel updating Russia on its intention to attack Iran."

The Israeli reports said Netanyahu was joined by his military secretary, Maj. Gen. Meir Kalifi, and national security adviser Uzi Arad.

Arad, a former Mossad spymaster, favors a tough line against Tehran and would almost certainly be involved in any preparations to attack Iran. Israel has strongly hinted it is prepared to attack the country's nuclear sites if international sanctions fail to persuade Tehran to curb its atomic program.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gives a speech during a Likud Party meeting to celebrate the Jewish new year in Tel Aviv, Israel, Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009. Netanyahu disappeared for nearly a day this week, and the mysterious absence has Israelis feverishly speculating that he flew to Russia for secret talks about Iran.

According to the Israeli reports, the rest of Netanyahu's inner circle was not told of the trip, and the leaks appeared to have been from disgruntled aides angry they were left out of the loop.

Arad, widely considered the prime minister's closest adviser, is a controversial figure in Netanyahu's office. He has clashed with other top officials and is reportedly so obsessed with security that he has demanded that other top advisers be subjected to lie detector tests.

Late Wednesday, Netanyahu's

Associated Press office began to back away from its original story, issuing a statement saying the report about visiting a secret military installation came from Kalifi and was a well-intentioned "independent initiative."

In an odd twist, it noted that Arad "had no part in this." The statement made no mention of Russia and gave no details on where Netanyahu had gone. Officials in Netanyahu's office declined comment Thursday, and Netanyahu did not mention the controversy in an address before party activists in Tel Aviv. □



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Soldiers escort Michael Escalante, a.k.a. "El Junior," handcuffed as he is presented to the press in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009. Escalante was arrested on Wednesday and is a suspect in at least eighteen murders, according to the army.

Associated Press

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — Soldiers have arrested a man suspected of killing 18 people in a series of attacks this year in violence-plagued Ciudad Juarez, across from El Paso, Texas.

Michael Escalante, 29, of El Paso, was allegedly a member of "La Linea," a group of hit men working for the Juarez drug cartel, Mexico's Defense Department said Thursday in a release.

There was no lawyer of record for Escalante, and his nationality was not immediately clear. The U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juarez declined to comment.

Last week authorities arrested two other alleged La Linea members, charging one in 211 killings and another in 33 killings.

Ciudad Juarez, Mexico's deadliest city, has seen more than 1,300 murders this year. Also Thursday, Ciudad Juarez city councilman Arturo Dominguez Esquivel announced the city would come up with 13 million

pesos (\$970,000) to help pay for the cost of keeping 2,100 soldiers in the city for another 45 days.

The army had been scheduled to withdraw about one-third of the 6,000 troops patrolling the city as part of a planned drawdown. The soldiers were sent to the city early this year to battle the cartels until more police could be trained and recruited.

The level of drug-related killings dropped drastically in the weeks following the army deployment, but then returned to previous levels.

Farther south in the Michoacan

state capital of Morelia, police said Wednesday that they seized eight counterfeit police and rescue vehicles including an intensive care ambulance with official-looking logos and paint jobs.

Police said the vehicles belonged to gang members who planned to use them to conduct illegal activities.

President Felipe Calderon first launched his crackdown against drug cartels in Michoacan, sending thousands of federal police and soldiers to his home state after taking office in late 2006. □

Fraud group voids ballots from Afghan election

DOUGLAS BIRCH,
JASON STRAZIUSO

Associated Press Writers

KABUL (AP) — A U.N.-backed fraud commission threw out votes from 83 polling stations and ordered recounts at hundreds of others in three provinces that form Afghan President Hamid Karzai's political base, reducing his chances of avoiding a runoff. The ruling Thursday was the first time the commission has flexed its muscles in the aftermath of an Aug. 20 presidential election marred by allegations of ballot stuffing, phantom polling stations and turnout at some polls that exceeded 100 percent of registered voters.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Karzai's chief challenger, former foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah, charged that the massive scale of what he called "state-engineered" fraud has become clear only as the numbers have trickled out over the past three weeks.

With results in from 92 percent of the country's polling stations, Karzai has 54 percent of the vote, according to the latest official count. That's enough to avoid a runoff election with Abdullah, who has 28 percent.

But if the U.N.-backed Electoral Complaints

Commission invalidates enough votes, Karzai's margin could drop below 50 percent, forcing him to face Abdullah one-on-one in a second round of voting.

Decisions by this fraud commission are final under Afghanistan's electoral law. The group — comprised of one American, one Canadian, one Dutch, and two Afghans — is releasing decisions from each province as investigations finish.

On Thursday, the commission threw out ballots from 51 polling stations in Kandahar province, 27 in Ghazni and five in Paktika. Although it did not say how many ballots were invalidated, thousands are likely involved. It ordered election officials to recount votes in hundreds of other voting centers across the three districts in the presence of observers, commission members and representatives of the candidates.

All three provinces are dominated by voters who, like Karzai, are ethnic Pashtuns and form the president's political base.

The Karzai-appointed Independent Election Commission, which is conducting the count, says it has deducted questionable votes from its totals.

But that commission's Web

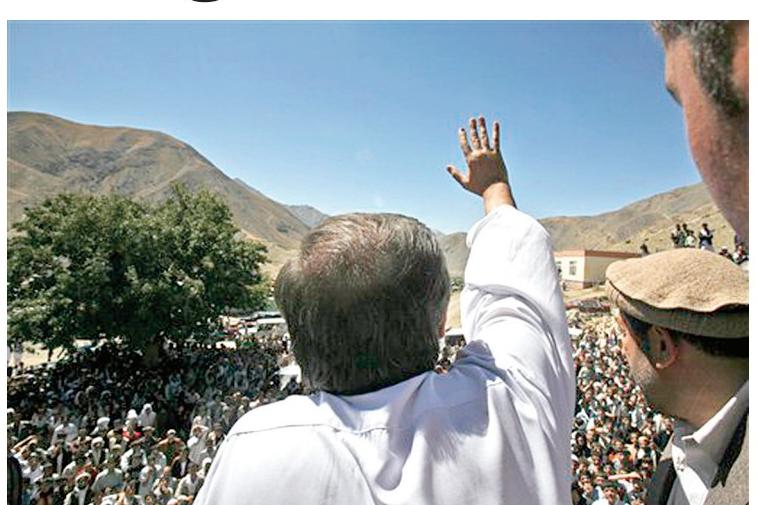
site still lists results from one polling center in the Kandahar city of Spin Boldak where Karzai received exactly 3,000 votes, 600 from each of the five polling stations.

Statisticians say such uniform results are highly unlikely and evidence of fraud.

"Of course there were fears and concerns about the possibility of fraud or rigging," Abdullah told the AP. "But ... when you investigate it, then you see that the whole thing was state-engineered and unfortunately in collaboration with the IEC (Independent Election Commission), in most cases." Abdullah said he expects that, once the fraudulent ballots are excluded, Karzai's margin will drop below 50 percent, triggering a runoff.

There are about 770 polling stations still being counted in Kandahar, according to the IEC Web site, meaning the 51 thrown out in the province represent about 5 percent of voting sites.

But the fraud commission has ordered audits and recounts of every vote cast in three of Kandahar's province's 17 districts, as well as more than a dozen additional polling stations in Paktika and Ghazni. Investigators examined only a portion of the ballots in voting centers where there were complaints. In Kandahar's



Abdullah Abdullah, the toughest rival against President Hamid Karzai in presidential election, waves to his supporters at the Afghan national hero Ahmed Shah Massoud's mausoleum in Panjshir, 140 kilometers (87 miles) north of Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009. Partial results released so far show Karzai with 54 percent, far ahead of top challenger Abdullah Abdullah, who has 28 percent, however, the U.N.-backed commission investigating fraud in Afghanistan's election issued its first orders Thursday to exclude some ballots from the final tally.

Associated Press

Shorabak District they examined 15 out of 41 polling stations. Officials found evidence of ballot stuffing in every one they looked at.

In Spin Boldak, investigators found "clear and convincing evidence of ballot stuffing" in 17 of 27 polling stations checked, resulting in the invalidation of more than 6,000 ballots.

The commission ordered a recount and audit of all the remaining 354 polling stations in the district.

A top official with the IEC, the Karzai-appointed Afghan

election commission, has said that recounting ballots at so many polling sites could take months. That raises the question of when a second-round election could even be held, given Afghanistan's harsh winters.

Some Western officials have floated a national unity government led by Karzai as a way to ease the electoral crisis and avoid a potentially messy runoff. But Abdullah ruled out that possibility Thursday, telling the AP that he would not accept a position in a new Karzai government. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

U.S. Open

Del Potro makes semis with victory over Cilic

EDDIE PELLS
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Juan Martin del Potro overcame a sluggish start and blustery wind to defeat Marin Cilic 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 in the U.S. Open quarterfinals on Thursday. It was sixth-seeded del Potro's first match inside Arthur Ashe Stadium, and produced his second trip to a Grand Slam semifinal.

"It's so beautiful playing in front of this crowd," del Potro said. "I'm so happy it happened this way."

Jettisoned to smaller courts for every match over his two years at Flushing Meadows — despite his ranking — del Potro finally got to play on the big stage.

The Argentine had a rough time handling Cilic's serve in the first set, but worked it out and rolled off 17 of the last 20 games.

"I cannot start the match like today," del Potro said. "I was thinking about other things, and the weather was bad. But it was bad for both players. I just need to be in focus in the beginning of the match until the last point and play my game."

Del Potro's in his second major semifinal, following this year's French Open, where he blew a lead and lost in five sets to Roger Federer. His next opponent will be No. 3 Rafael Nadal or No. 11 Fernando Gonzalez, whose quarterfinal was interrupted by rain with Nadal leading 7-6 (4), 2-2.

After winning the first set, Nadal sought treatment from a trainer. The exact nature of Nadal's problem wasn't immediately clear, but he did have stomach muscle issues

PAIN DELAY



A trainer probes Rafael Nadal's midsection during a break in his match with Fernando Gonzalez of Chile at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009.

Associated Press

earlier in the tournament.

Del Potro got a matchup with 16th-seeded Cilic thanks to the Croatian's three-set upset of No. 2 Andy Murray on Tuesday. In del Potro, Cilic saw a near mirror image of himself — 6-foot-6 (1.98 meters), big serve, and they were even born five days apart in September 1988.

But Cilic's sharpness from the Murray match vanished in this one after leading by a set and a break. He committed 53 unforced errors against 29 winners, while del Potro was

on his game — 24 unforced errors and 27 winners.

"Andy, he doesn't have as much power as Del Potro has," Cilic said. "And it was a little bit hotter day that day and the ball was going through the court more and jumping much more."

Despite wind gusting at more than 20 mph (30 kph), del Potro showed power, and the poise to hit drop shots and lobs.

"I was thinking, every point, do the same, try to put the ball in the court," he said. □



St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols is congratulated in the dugout after hitting a home run during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

NL Roundup

Pujols homers twice, Wainwright wins 18th

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Albert Pujols hit two home runs for a MLB-leading 47 and Adam Wainwright picked up his 18th win as the St. Louis Cardinals pasted the Milwaukee Brewers 5-1 in the National League on Wednesday.

Adam Wainwright (18-7) scattered five hits in seven scoreless innings to become the first pitcher this season to 18 wins and Pujols powered the offense with his homers in the fifth and seventh innings to complete a three-game sweep of the Brewers.

But St. Louis got a scare when Matt Holliday tumbled running out a grounder in the third and left with a bruised left knee. The Cardinals have won 25 of their last 31 overall, and are well on their way to a fourth NL Central division title in six years.

Cubs 8, Pirates 5

At Pittsburgh, Carlos Zambrano won for the first time since July 22 by limiting slumping-again Pittsburgh to two runs over six innings as Chicago finished off a three-game sweep.

Playing before a sparse crowd that was announced at 10,899 but looked — and sounded — like it was much smaller, the Cubs won their sixth in a row against the Pirates, who completed a 1-5 homestand.

Former Cubs shortstop Ronny Cedeno hit a three-run homer off Kevin Gregg for his third hit of the game, and former Cubs pitcher Kevin Hart (4-6) took the loss.

Diamondbacks 4, Dodgers 3

At Phoenix, Mark Reynolds drew a bases-loaded walk in the bottom of the ninth inning as Arizona beat Los Angeles, to slice the Dodgers' NL West lead to 2 1/2 games over Colorado.

Miguel Montero homered, doubled and singled and Chris Young also went deep for Arizona, which snapped a six-game losing streak. Dan Haren allowed three runs and struck out nine in 7 1-3 innings.

In other NL games it was, Chicago Cubs 8, Pittsburgh 5; St. Louis 5, Milwaukee 1; San Diego 4, San Francisco 2; Philadelphia 6, Washington 5; Florida 6, N.Y. Mets 3; Houston 2, Atlanta 1; Colorado 4, Cincinnati 3; and Arizona 4, L.A. Dodgers 3. □

Hall to welcome 4 greats – and maybe the greatest

BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

S P R I N G F I E L D , Massachusetts (AP) — Michael Jordan will be enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on Friday, a final honor for someone who's already won everything else.

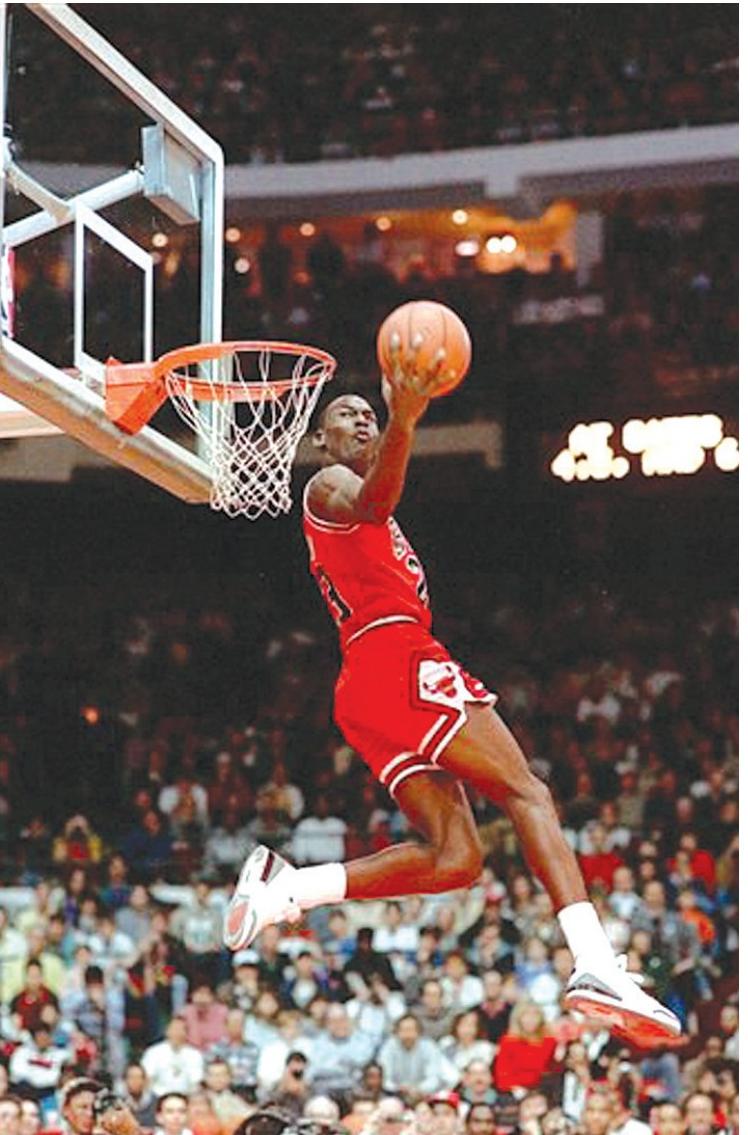
David Robinson, John Stockton, Utah Jazz coach Jerry Sloan and Rutgers University women's coach C. Vivian Stringer will also be inducted. But the attention is largely on Jordan, the six-time NBA champion, five-time league MVP and 10-time scoring champion.

Others have won more or scored more, but Jordan might top them all.

"I think you have to be realistic," Charles Barkley said. "Michael Jordan to me is the best basketball player ever."

His entrance into the Hall is bringing unprecedented attention, forcing the enshrinement ceremonies to be moved to Springfield's Symphony Hall, with a capacity of about 2,600 that is more than double what the Hall of Fame can hold.

Continued on Page B12



In this Feb. 6, 1988 file photo, Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls dunks during the slam-dunk competition of the NBA All-Star weekend in Chicago, Ill. On Friday, Sept. 11, 2009, Jordan will be enshrined at the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Associated Press



Rory Sabbatini watches after his tee shot on the 10th hole during the first round of the BMW Championship golf tournament in Lemont, Ill., Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009.

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

LEMONT, Illinois (AP) — Two days after being left off the Presidents Cup team, Rory Sabbatini had seven birdies in a round of 5-under 66 to share the lead with Steve Marino in

Associated Press

the BMW Championship on Thursday.

They had a one-shot lead over Bo Van Pelt and Marc Leishman, who only qualified for the third U.S. PGA Tour playoff event by making an eagle on his final hole on

Newspaper says Semenya has male, female sex organs



South Africa's athlete Caster Semenya dances after her arrival at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa, Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2009. Semenya, who is undergoing gender testing after questions arose about her muscular build and deep voice, returns home Tuesday to celebrations after her 800-meter win at the world championships.

Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — World 800-meter champion Caster Semenya of South Africa has male and female sexual organs, the Sydney Morning Herald said on Friday, posing an ethical and political quandary for athletics' ruling body.

The Herald said extensive physical examinations of 18-year-old Semenya ordered by the IAAF have shown she is technically a hermaphrodite.

Medical reports indicate she has no ovaries, but rather has internal male testes, which are producing large amounts of testosterone.

The newspaper said the IAAF was trying to contact Semenya to inform her of the results. After dominating her race at the world titles in Berlin last month, Semenya was given blood and chromosome tests as well as a gynecological examination.

"This is a medical issue and not a doping issue where she was deliberately cheating," IAAF spokesman Nick Davies was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

"These tests do not suggest any suspicion of deliberate misconduct but seek to assess the possibility of a potential medical condition which would give Semenya an unfair advantage over her competitors. There is no automatic disqualification of results in a case like this."

The IAAF has said Semenya would probably keep her medal because the case was not related to a drug matter. But the Herald said an alternative possibility was to award a second gold to the runner-up, Janeth Jepkosgei from Kenya. □

Sabbatini states his case in Chicago

Monday in the Deutsche Bank Championship.

Tiger Woods, a four-time winner at Cog Hill, was among those at 68.

The group included Geoff Ogilvy and Padraig Harrington. Ogilvy was the first player to get to 5 under, which he attributed to a few long birdie putts. He took a double bogey on the seventh hole by hitting his tee shot into the water, yet recovered with consecutive birdies to end his round.

Sabbatini won the Byron Nelson Championship in May and appeared to be in good shape to make the Presidents Cup team until Y.E. Yang stunned the golf world with his comeback win over Woods at the U.S. PGA Championship to bump Sabbatini out of the top 10. Team captain Greg

Norman then used his two captain's picks on 17-year-old Ryo Ishikawa of Japan, who has won four times in the last calendar year; and Adam Scott of Australia, who was in the worst slump of his career and has fallen out of the top 50 in the world ranking.

Right after his low round, Sabbatini took the high road.

"If I'd been playing well over the past couple weeks and didn't get picked, I might have something to complain about," said Sabbatini, who has missed

four cuts in his last eight starts and has not finished in the top 30 since winning in Dallas. "But you know what? The situation is such ... I'm here this week. I'm going to focus on this."

Scott had two top 10s this year — the Sony Open in January

and the Scottish Open in July — without another finish in the top 20. Norman said Scott was "the logical choice."

What disturbed Sabbatini was not hearing from Norman or anyone else during the three weeks after the U.S. PGA Championship when the captain makes his two selections.

"There was not a single conversation or a single phone call, period," Sabbatini said. "You could say I was a little disappointed."

The spunky South African was hardly disappointed by anything at Cog Hill, the public course in the Chicago suburbs which received a facelift from Rees Jones. It is longer and tougher, with deeper bunkers, and it was reflected in the scoring. □

AL Roundup

Jeter ties Yankees hit record; Posada's home run wins it

NEW YORK (AP) — Derek Jeter tied Lou Gehrig atop the Yankees hit list as New York rallied for a 4-2 victory and a four-game sweep of Tampa Bay in the American League on Wednesday.

Pinch-hitter Jorge Posada slammed a three-run homer in the eighth inning to key the victory.

Jeter got three hits to match Gehrig with 2,721 in a Yankees uniform, a mark the Hall of Famer had held by himself for more than 70 years. Jeter had a chance to break the record, but he walked against reliever Grant Balfour after New York's comeback in the eighth.

Shut down by rookie Jeff Niemann most of the night, the Yankees sent the AL champion Rays to their eighth consecutive loss. It's their longest skid since dropping eight straight in July 2007. At Boston, pinch-hitter Victor Martinez hit a three-run double to break a seventh-inning tie as Boston downed Baltimore.

Billy Wagner (1-0) pitched a perfect seventh inning, striking out two, for the victory — the first AL decision of his career. After Daniel Bard put two men on in the eighth, Jonathan Papelbon got four outs for his 35th save, giving up one run. Nick Markakis had three hits for Baltimore, and Brian Roberts doubled in the fifth inning to become the fourth player in major league history to have three seasons with at least 50 doubles. Hall of Famers Tris Speaker, Paul Waner and Stan Musial are the others.

At Anaheim, California, Kendry Morales hit an early three-run double and Jered Weaver pitched well into the seventh inning as Los Angeles beat Seattle for its fifth victory in six games.

Juan Rivera added a late two-run homer, and Brian Fuentes bounced back from a blown save one night earlier to earn his AL-leading 40th save for

the Angels, whose victory kept their AL West lead at 4 1/2 games over Texas. Kenji Johjima and Jose Lopez hit solo homers for the Mariners, who have lost four straight.

Fuentes came on with two runners in scoring position and no outs, but gave up only Mike Sweeney's RBI groundout before getting Ichiro Suzuki on a game-ending grounder.

Royals 5, Tigers 1

At Kansas City, Missouri, Robinson Tejeda tossed six shutout innings to outpitch Justin Verlander and Billy Butler hit three doubles as Kansas City beat Detroit for its first three-game winning streak since July.

Butler's three-double game was his club-record fourth of the season, and he also posted his fifth consecutive multihit game.

Tejeda (2-1) matched his career high with eight strikeouts and allowed three hits. He has

struck out 25 during a 19-inning scoreless streak.

Butler hit his 43rd double with two outs in the third and scored on Mike Jacobs' single. He added RBI doubles in the seventh and eighth.

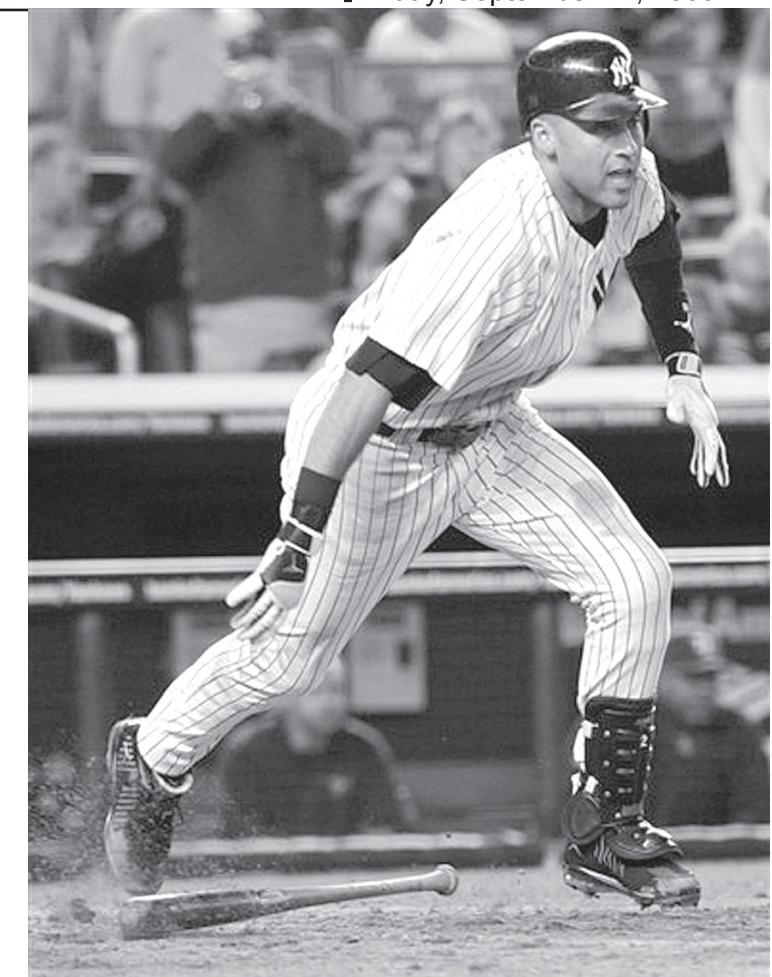
At Chicago, A.J. Pierzynski hit a game-ending RBI double in the bottom of the 13th inning, and Scott Podsednik had four hits to lead Chicago past Oakland.

Alexei Ramirez singled with one out in the 13th against Edgar Gonzalez (0-2) and Pierzynski followed with a double off the wall in left-center.

Ramirez drove in two runs for the White Sox, who have won six of eight. Octavio Dotel (3-3) pitched three scoreless innings.

At Toronto, Justin Morneau and Orlando Cabrera homered as Minnesota finally got the best of Roy Halladay.

Cabrera tied it with a leadoff shot in the sixth and Morneau



hit a two-out tiebreaking drive in the eighth for his 30th homer. Pinch-hitter Michael Cuddyer added a two-run double in the ninth.

Halladay (14-9) allowed nine hits, struck out nine and walked one in his major league-leading seventh complete game. The right-hander dropped to 8-1 with a 2.90 ERA in 13 games,

11 starts, against Minnesota, which was the only AL team that hadn't beat him.

In other AL games, Texas 10, Cleveland 0; N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 2; Minnesota 4, Toronto 1; Boston 7, Baltimore 5; Kansas City 5, Detroit 1; Chicago White Sox 4, Oakland 3, 13 innings; L.A. Angels 6, Seattle 3

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**THE GREATEST
Continued from Page B10**

"Every class is special, there's no question about that, but this one seems to rise a bit above the normal class and obviously it's because of who's in the class," said John Doleva, the Hall's president and CEO.

"Not only Michael Jordan, but others that are joining him in this class. But he does bring a lot of notoriety and a lot of interest and obviously has a very broad fan base around the world, so I would say this is the biggest enshrinement we've had."

Doleva said nearly 60 Hall of Famers — more than for any induction — are returning for the festivities. He estimated there were nearly double the usual number of requests for media credentials.

Besides Jordan, those on hand will see Robinson, who helped San Antonio win two NBA titles and the United States win two Olympic gold medals; Stockton, the NBA's

career leader in assists and steals who also won Olympic gold in 1992 and 1996; Sloan, Stockton's longtime coach who has won more than 1,000 games in Utah; and Stringer, the first women's coach to lead three schools to the U.S. college semifinals.

It would be an elite class even without Jordan. With him, it becomes perhaps the strongest and has Springfield buzzing.

"I'm anxious to see who's there, but I've got to think there are going to be a lot of former teammates," said Phoenix Suns general manager and former Jordan teammate Steve Kerr, who won titles with Jordan and Robinson and was traveling to Springfield on Thursday.

Besides replica jerseys and rings from the championships he won playing for the University of North Carolina, the Chicago Bulls, and the U.S. Olympic team, Jordan's exhibit honors his legacy as a pitchman. There's a collection



This is an April 6, 2009, file photo showing, from left, Rutgers women's coach C. Vivian Stringer, and former NBA basketball players John Stockton, David Robinson and Michael Jordan, holding jerseys, in Detroit, at the announcement that they were elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame. Utah Jazz coach Jerry Sloan, not shown, is also part of the 2009 class.

Associated Press

of his Air Jordans, the backbone of an endorsement empire that won the sneaker market for Nike and paved the way for today's players to make millions off the court.

"We all owe Michael Jordan a lot of money," said Barkley, who is Sloan's presenter. "There's three guys we owe a lot of money to. First there was Magic (Johnson), then (Larry) Bird. They really turned the NBA around, but Michael Jordan really took it to a whole other level. If

you talk about golf, there was Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus, and Tiger (Woods) took it to a whole other stratosphere. And we do, we do owe Michael Jordan and I thank him a great deal for that."

Woods, as fierce a competitor as anyone, has succeeded Jordan as perhaps the world's most recognizable athlete.

"I remember the countless hours I spent with Michael in the gym feeding him balls," Woods said. "He would just

shoot all night. And we thought that, yeah, he just showed up to the game and off he went and scored 45 and went home. You don't realize what he did to prepare for that."

The weekend events began late Thursday, with the enshrinement on Friday followed by a ring ceremony on Saturday at Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut. Though it's largely a celebration of Jordan, he said during the election news conference in April that the Hall of Fame wasn't fun for him, "because at that time, your basketball career is completely over."

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Resistencia espera resolver pronto crisis en Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA (AP) - Simpatizantes del presidente depuesto Manuel Zelaya anunciaron el jueves que en septiembre podría resolverse la crisis política que agobia a Honduras, luego del golpe de estado del 28 de junio.

El coordinador general del Frente, Juan Barahona, afirmó que las movilizaciones populares "no se detendrán hasta lograr la derrota de los golpistas". Subrayó que "tras 74 días de protestar en las calles de Honduras, el pueblo sigue su valiente lucha que lo aproxima a la victoria... y el triunfo del pueblo está cerca".

La resistencia la forman maestros, sindicalistas y estudiantes de unas 30 organizaciones hondureñas. "Tenemos la esperanza de resolver la crisis en el mes de la patria, en septiembre, que es adecuado para celebrarlo de manera cívica", dijo a la AP el líder del Frente de la Resistencia Nacional contra el Golpe de Estado, Rafael



Soldados patrullan el lugar donde se realiza una manifestación en apoyo del depuesto presidente de Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, en Tegucigalpa, 9 sep 2009. REUTERS/Edgard Garrido

Alegría. No especificó cómo se solucionaría el conflicto. El 15 de septiembre se conmemora el 188 aniversario de la emancipación de Honduras y los otros países centroamericanos de España, ocurrida en 1821.

Los seguidores del mandatario derrocado incorporaron el jueves una nueva modalidad a sus protestas para exigir el regreso de Zelaya con caravanas de vehículos que recorren las ciudades hondureñas.

Los manifestantes recorren centenares de aldeas, caseríos y ciudades del territorio

nacional desde hace 75 días, mientras en las paredes de las casas, negocios y edificios públicos dejan la huella de su paso con leyendas contra los militares, empresarios, políticos y religiosos por considerar que participaron en el derrocamiento de Zelaya. El Frente exige además que se convoque a una asamblea

constituyente para modificar la ley fundamental de 1982 y transformar el país, lo que provocó la caída de su líder al intentar continuar en el cargo por más de los cuatro años constitucionales. El gobierno de facto, encabezado por Roberto Micheletti, considera que la solución a la crisis generada por el golpe de estado son las elecciones generales de noviembre, que no son reconocidas por el mandatario derrocado ni por la comunidad internacional. Micheletti también ha rechazado el regreso de Zelaya, contemplado en el acuerdo de San José promovido por el presidente costarricense Oscar Arias y respaldado por los países de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, de la cual Honduras fue expulsada en julio por violar los principios democráticos. Unos 4,6 de los 7,5 millones de hondureños están aptos para votar en los comicios de los que saldrán un presidente, tres vicepresidentes, 256 congresistas, 40 diputados al Parlamento Centroamericano y 298 alcaldes. □

Policía de Colombia confisca 11,2 mlns dólares

BOGOTA (Reuters) - La policía de Colombia confiscó 11,2 millones de dólares que arribaron al puerto de Buenaventura en dos contenedores de un barco procedente de México, el mayor decomiso de efectivo a los carteles de narcotráfico en la historia reciente, informaron el jueves las autoridades.

El dinero, oculto en un cargamento de sulfato de amonio que fue enviado desde el Manzanillo, se confiscó el miércoles en la noche en el puerto de Buenaventura, el más importante de Colombia sobre el Océano Pacífico y que mueve más de la mitad del comercio internacional del país.

El sub director de la Policía Nacional, general Rafael Parra, dijo que varios de los cargamentos de cocaína confiscados en los últimos meses en Colombia tenían con destino Manzanillo y que el decomiso del dinero comprueba los vínculos de los carteles colombianos y mexicanos.

"Es un duro golpe a las finanzas del narcotráfico y obedece a la decisión del Gobierno Nacional de luchar contra el narcotráfico", dijo el oficial a periodistas.

Parra se abstuvo de revelar a qué cártel pertenecía el dinero confiscado para no entorpecer las investigaciones y aseguró que en la operación policial no se produjeron capturas.

Colombia es considerado el primer productor mundial de cocaína con unas 600 toneladas anuales, mientras que los carteles mexicanos pasaron a controlar el mercado internacional de la droga que se envía a Estados Unidos. □

Buscan a presunto narco puertorriqueño en República Dominicana

SANTO DOMINGO (Reuters) - Un presunto capo del narcotráfico prófugo de origen puertorriqueño es buscado en República Dominicana tras un decomiso de 4,6 millones de dólares en efectivo e informes estadounidenses de que estaría en el país caribeño, dijeron el jueves autoridades.

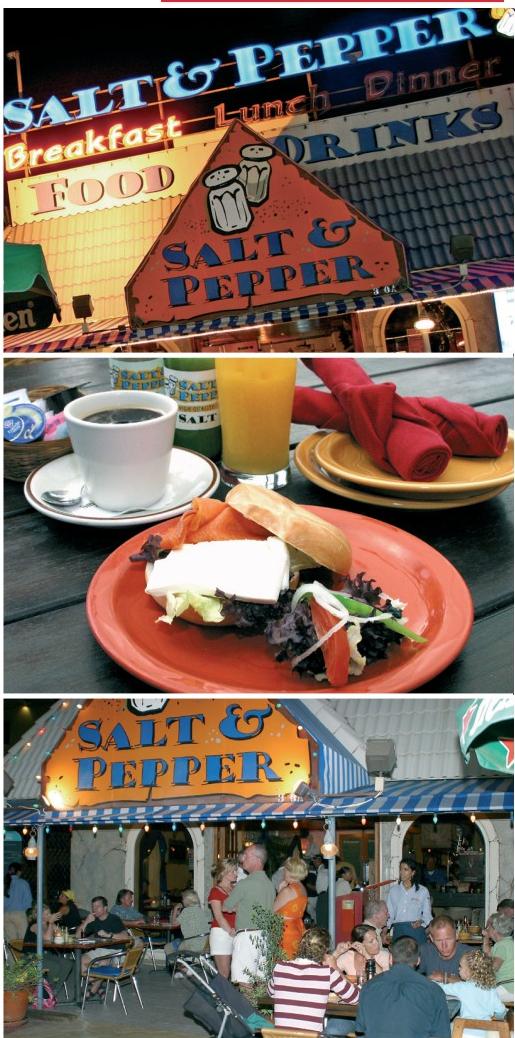
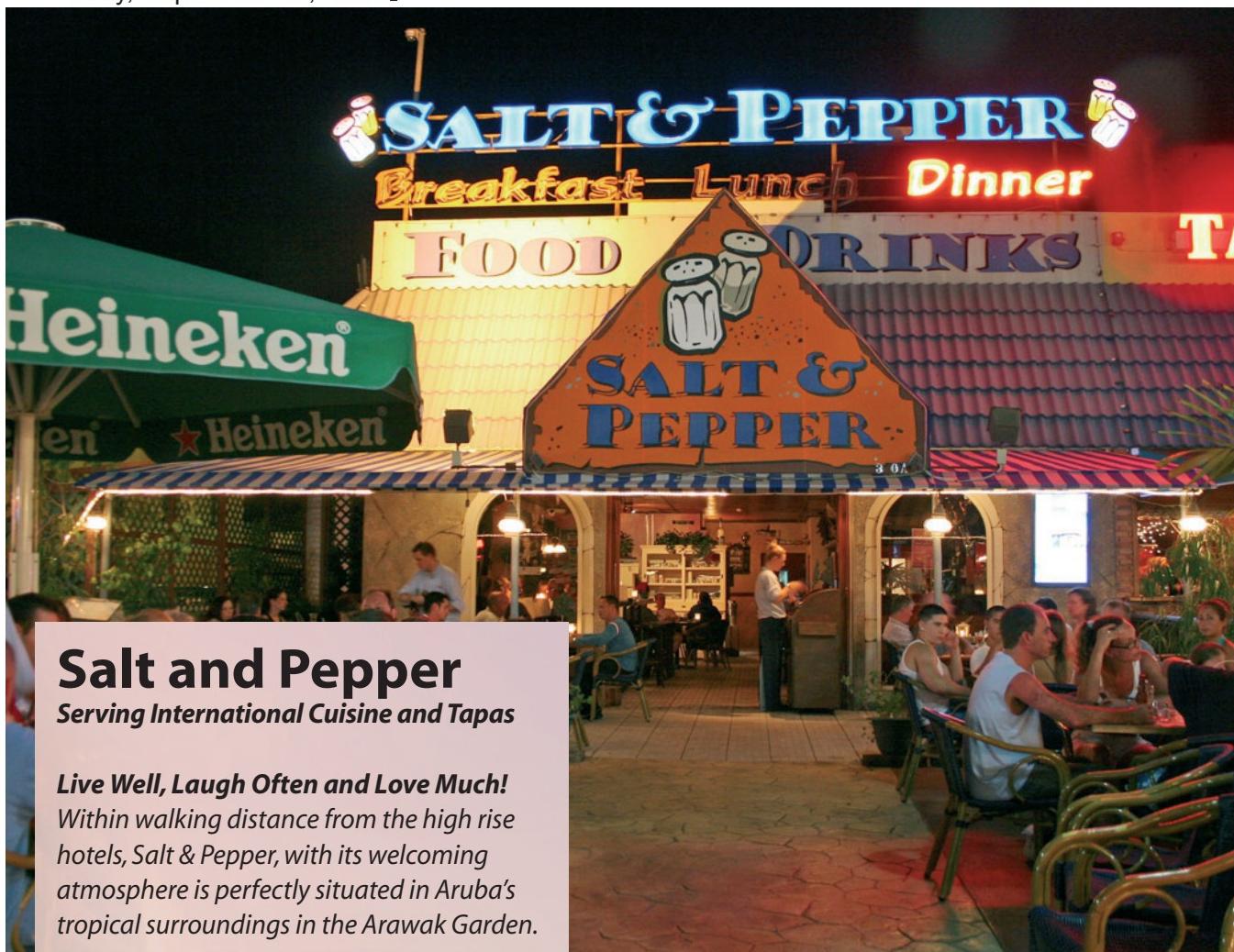
República Dominicana ordenó reforzar la vigilancia en las fronteras terrestre, aérea y marítima dentro de la búsqueda de José D. Figueroa Agosto, quien se presume pueda estar en la capital Santo Domingo o en la ciudad norteña de Santiago, la segunda mayor del país, según la policía.

Figueroa escapó de una cárcel de Puerto Rico, donde cumplía desde septiembre de 1995 sentencia de 209 años de cárcel por posesión de 1.600 kilos de cocaína y otros delitos como secuestros, asesinato y asaltos, dijo el portavoz de la Dirección Nacional de Control de Drogas (DNCD), Roberto Lebrón.

En República Dominicana gestionó dos cédulas de identidad falsas, lo cual está siendo investigado, agregó. Dentro de los esfuerzos policiales, la dominicana Sobeida Feliz Morel, a quien se le vincula sentimentalmente con Figueroa, fue sentenciada el miércoles a un año de prisión como medida de coerción al vincularla con el jeep donde autoridades encontraron los 4,6 millones de dólares.

En Estados Unidos, según un informe policial de autoridades dominicanas, Figueroa es buscado por fuga de prisión y falsificación de documentos estatales.

El presunto capo, conocido como "Junior Cápsula", fue recluido en la Penitenciaría Estatal de Río Piedras, una cárcel de máxima seguridad en Puerto Rico conocida como "Oso Blanco" de la cual se escapó el 5 de noviembre de 1999 amparándose en una orden de libertad falsificada, agrega el informe. □



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